

He 7.

Lia

Purchased

at

Mr Beauchamps Sale

1781





54*7
5/12
THE
MEMOIRS
OF THE
TOWN AND COUNTY
OF

LEICESTER:

Displayed under an EPITOME of the Reign
of each Sovereign in the ENGLISH
HISTORY:

Containing, The ANTIQUITIES of each,
and the HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHI-
CAL RELATIONS at Large.

To which is added,

A Brief Supplimentary Account of the
present state of LEICESTERSHIRE.

BY JOHN THROSBY.

" Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
" ——— He even is for thee too high
" To know what passes there; be lowly wise.
" ——— ask
" How first this world and face of things began;
" And what before thy memory, was done."

MILTON.

VOL. I.

LEICESTER: Printed for the Author; and
sold by S. Crowder, in London; and
by J. Gregory, in Leicester. 1777.

28





KIND READER,

IF the diffidence with which I announced the publication of these Memoirs to the Public be not a sufficient apology for their appearance, I have but little more to offer in excuse. My situation in life gave me little reason to expect that even the *attempt* would pass uncensured, much less the execution which has to combat, I fear alas! with prejudgment.— But as tenderness is the characteristic of generous Minds I have no unpleasing apprehensions from the AMIABLE. The love of one's Country, which is stamp'd upon the mind of Man by the highest Authority, may lead our actions,

sometimes

sometimes, to a wrong bias ; but such mistaken zeal cannot be criminal.

Errors are to be found in most publications, if we receive the judgment of our monthly Criticks, (and I believe authors have profited by their judicious remarks) but in works of this kind they are most common. For if a writer on a subject like this should be ever so desirous of being guided by truth in his relations, and the most skilful ; yet he will too commonly find reason to lament his inability to produce the wishes of his heart.— I am persuaded that whoever sits down to read with candour these little Volumes will soon discover the difficulty of collecting, writing, and ranging the multitarious Articles he will find therein : and

such

such a Reader, I flatter myself, will at once find a ready excuse for every error and omission which may appear.

As to the plan of this work I will say nothing here in its commendation: it occurred to me to be the best method of conveying knowledge of distant events. It would ill become me to boast of the execution, I dare only say, that my wishes have been succeeded by an earnest diligence to please. But one palliative word may be necessary to those who may deem needless, from their liberal education, some of the occasional remarks which I have cast into notes. I wish such to understand that they were not vainly intended for their instruction. It was for me to expect

some

some readers of less experience, and for their use they are inserted.

As the uninteresting disquisition about ancient possessors of lands and their genealogies, who have had nothing more to recommend them to the notice of posterity than their riches, will find no place in these sheets, consequently *Mr. Burton's* description of Leicestershire has been of but little use to me in writing these Memoirs. But to prevent a too frequent repetition of names at the bottom of the pages in support of my assertions, it may be necessary to inform my readers of some of the respectable authorities that have been consulted, viz. *Camden, Dugdale, Stukeley, Salmon, Speed, Rapin, Cart, Hume, Gibson, Stillingfleet, Usher, Tindal, Antiquities of England, Historical Collection of the*

Britons,

Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans, the Town Library, Ecclesiastical History, History of Religious Houses and Abbies, Clarendon, British Biography, a Collection from the Writings of the Corporation of Leicester, and from the Registers of Lincoln, and other curious particulars I have been favoured with in manuscript, &c. &c.

I have endeavoured to avail myself of every event worthy notice in modern times ; the insertion of which will at least prove that I have not been inattentive to my design.

Although it would manifest extreme arrogance in a young writer to expect much applause from a new and difficult undertaking, yet I flatter myself that indications of industry will be
obvious

obvious to the candid Reader.—
 But whatever may be my fate from
 the various judgments of men, I
 shall ever retain the highest esteem
 for those Characters who have ho-
 noured me with their support on
 this occasion. I will not be vain
 enough to suppose that it arose
 from a confidence in my merit : It
 flowed from *nobler principles* —— To
 these I turn with pleasure under
 every forbidding thought; they
 who are enemies to detraction, who
 support the emulous, and who,
 copying DIVINITY, allow for the
 imperfections of *human Nature*.

The AUTHOR.

T H E

T H E
C O N T E N T S
O F T H E
F I R S T V O L U M E.

C H A P. I.

*T H E Exordium——Britons——Ro-
mans——Leicester——Emperors——
Jewry-Wall——Cleibroke——Great-
Roads——Burrow.*

C H A P. II.

*The Heptarchy——Mercia——Lei-
cester, a Kingdom——Wilfrid——Earl
of Leicester.*

C H A P. III.

*Egbert, &c.——Alfred, &c.——
Ethelfreda——Athelstan, &c.——
Eldrid's Deed——Earl of Leicester——
Bishops of Leicester——Lords of Leicester.*

C H A P.

(viii.)

CHAP. IV.

William I.—Edwin Earl of Leicester—Leicester.

CHAP. V.

William II.—Grentemeisnil—Hinkley Castle and Priory.

CHAP. VI.

Henry I.—Huncote—Bellamont Earl of Leicester—St. Mary's, Leicester—Bolles—Burton-Lazars.

CHAP. VII.

Stephen—Robert de Bellamont, Earl of Leicester.

CHAP. VIII.

Henry II.—Bellamont, Earl of Leicester—Leicester—Foliot—Burdet.

CHAP. IX.

Richard I.—Bellamont, Earl of Leicester.

THE

THE
M E M O I R S
O F T H E
T O W N and C O U N T Y
O F
LEICESTER, &c.

CHAP. I.

*The Exordium——Britons——Romans
Leicester——Emperors——Jewry-
Wall——Cleibroke——Burrow.*

The EXORDIUM.

HISTORY, is unlike the CHAP.
I.
*visionary flights of fiction,
she raiseth in our minds the
noblest sensations: she excites us to ad-
mire, and to copy, the glorious actions
of the illustrious dead; she makes us
detest the ways of those wretched
wanderers in error, who have fallen
beneath*

VOL. I. B

CHAP. the stern laws of an injured country.

I.

In her pleasing descriptions the noble monuments of *antiquity* are open to our view. In her instructing pages we often discover the solemn interposition of an All-Potent Arm, frustrating, with all imaginable ease, the latent schemes of wicked men. We learn also, from her salutary lessons, *a part* of the Wisdom of His Counsels whose word commanded the amazing grandeur of the world, and the astonishing wonders it contains, *to rise* from a gloomy Chaos.

BUT notwithstanding there is a sufficient fund both for entertainment and edification of well authenticated facts in history, yet we are too desirous of over-reaching that prescriptive line. Man is naturally inquisitive about events of little moment: not content
with

EXORDIUM.

II

CHAP.

I.

with beholding the various objects that surround him wherever he appears; not satisfied with surveying their beauty, wondrous mechanism, and usefulness; not long tempted to adore that Beneficent Hand from whence the glorious universe displays its magnificence; not filled with contemplating on the unalterable events of time, that hourly pass before him, in pleasing and displeasing succession, he would willingly trace back the first sketch of Omnipotent Wisdom, exploring, as he proceeds, the obliterated depths of long lost history. But such projects of human sagacity are often humbled by disappointment, in dissonant opinions. *Man* often sees the labours of his life contemptuously disregarded, or himself charged with ex-
posing

CHAP. 1. posing the wild reveries of a fanciful imagination. Aware of the uselessness of such employment we will endeavour to make a more profitable use of the room prescribed for this work.

For ancient story has been long obscured. Fable, and the forwardness of man to meet wonders, have left few traces of remote antiquity undefaced. Ingenious men have, indeed, for a time, *amused us* with their literary researches for past events; but such impressions on the human mind are of short duration when they are not supported by the truths of history.

MOST nations when first discovered were in barbarous state; and the only mean they made use of to transmit their actions was oral tradition which must very soon be disfigured when

when intrusted to the memory only. CHAP.

I.

NOR would the rude beginnings of uncivilized people, if we could depend on those relations, afford much entertainment to *men* who have learned to *shudder* at inhumanity. The revolutions incident to states, in our more cultivated ages, are conducted by political sagacity and temperance; but what a contrasted picture would appear if we could draw from the womb of time the convulsions of barbarians, terminating their feuds by the most horrid cruelties. Not dwelling therefore on the unpleasing fallies of uncultured nature; and leaving the uninteresting display of conjectural amusement we will pass, rather rapidly, to events less damaged by time and fable, and much more consistent with our views.

BRITAIN

CHAP.

I.

The BRITONS.

Britain
peopled.

BRITAIN, ^a admirably secured by nature from incursion, was so tempting to the Gauls or Celtæ, dwellers in the neighbouring continent; who on their native shore were much straitened for room, that a tribe of whom embarked and took possession of the sea coast of this favoured Isle.

AFTER the first emigrators had settled, and had described the agreeableness of their situation to their less enterprising countrymen at home, they flocked here in repeated numbers. Those of whom, that preferred a life of ease and pastoral simplicity, retired into the inland parts of the island, where the more temperate atmosphere suited their sequestered inclinations.

LEICESTERSHIRE,

^a Supposed to be so named by the Grecians.

LEICESTERSHIRE, lying at a great CHAP.
1.
distance from the sea, and being free
from bogs and marshes, was doubt-Leicester-
shire peo-
pled.
less peopled by these last emigrators.
Its *salubrious air* could not fail to
tempt a people straying, from their na-
tive shores, in quest of *ease* and *happi-
ness*.

THESE Celtæ, who lived in the in-
land part of the island, distin-
guished themselves from the dwel-
lers on the sea-coast, by the name of
Cumri, alluding to their supposed de-
scendant from Gomer,^b the son of
Japhet.

THEIR

^b "Gomer, the eldest son of Japhet," says
the judicious Camden, "gave both begin-
ning and name to the Gomarians; which
"were after called Cimbrians and Cimerians,
"They which are now the Gauls, were (as
"Josephus and Zonaras write) called of Go-
"mer, Gomeri. From these I have always
"thought

CHAP. THEIR persons were tall and well proportioned. Their hair, which was generally sandy, they wore flowing over their shoulders. Their faces they shaved except their upper lip: the hair on which they suffered to grow very long. They stained their bodies with a sea-weed that defended them from the severities of the winter, and gave them a formidable aspect. Their wretched dwellings were made of boughs, mud, and clay; the roofs of which were covered with turf. Those humble cots had seldom a long continuance: the dread of an enemy, the hopes of plunder, or the convenience of feeding their cattle were sufficient causes

“ thought that our Britains drew their beginning; and from thence, for a proof of their said beginning, brought their name. This proper and peculiar name also of the Britains hath persuaded me thereunto; for even they call themselves ordinarily Kumera, and Cymro; like as a British women Kumera, and the tongue itself Kumeraeg.”

causes for changing their situation. Altho' the country naturally produced an extensive variety of food, they seemed ignorant of its use or refrained from it on religious principles. Milk, and the flesh of some animals they killed in hunting, was their chief sustenance. Domesticated fowls and beast they held in the highest estimation.

THE Beltæ, who were suffered to settle peaceably among them, taught them agriculture. There appeared an uniform plainness in their persons and way of living; which extended to their customs and manners. They were brave, hospitable, and sincere. They knew but little of the matrimonial refinement; a select number of men often kept one woman common

VOL. I.

C

to

c Cæsar.

CHAP. to them all. Among these combinations were brothers, fathers, and sons. *d*

Druids religion.

THEIR Religion was a diabolical superstition. Their offerings to their god's were the sacrifices of human flesh. Their priests were called Druids, who possessed, almost, an unlimited power : to them were committed the inhuman ceremonies ; and the administration of civil judicature. Their

d Eusebius.—This turns, says Mr. Salmon, “ a family almost into a herd of cattle ; no “ child knows its own father, nor father his “ own child ; there can be no superiority or “ order among them. The sons become rivals to their fathers and the mother prostitute to her children, all the endearments of “ natural affection are destroyed, and the uncertain unhappy progeny is so far from being a pleasure, that it can only be a burden to those who are tied to the duties of “ education.”

Their king had ever a Druid about CHAP.
1.
his person to pray, to advise, and to determine emergent controversies: and who ever refused to submit to their decree was fined severely, and often excommunicated. These deluding priests were not less powerful in war than in peace: they have rushed between armies ready to engage, and by their awful remonstrances have stopt the carnage of embattled legions.—They taught their pupils the immortality of the soul.—Altho' they believed in one Deity supreme and infinite, yet they payed divine honours to inferior Gods; among whom were *Jupiter*, *Mars* and *Apollo*. Dark Groves, and secret recesses were the favourite spots, where they exercised the mysteries of their religion. Never did any idolatrous worship gain such an ascendancy

C H A P. I. dency over mankind as that of the ancient Britons: the dispensators of it, mystically, influenced a rude people living in a state little superior to the dictates of nature; and happily cemented the bands of government by the terrors of their superstition.

BRITIAN, during the earliest government she knew, acquired some relish of liberty: her people were divided into small nations or tribes; each governed by a chieftain, or king, who was vindictive in repelling the least encroachments of each others claims. The province of Coritani, contained besides Leicestershire, the counties of Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton, Derby, and Nottingham. e

The province of Coratini.

THEIR

e It is not to be understood that they were then divided counties, as at present: they are mentioned here to express the magnitude of this province.

THEIR manner of fighting was an C H A P.
1.
horrible display of terror; the most active of the men rode about all parts of the battle casting darts, which they threw with great dexterity; the women at the same time running up and down like furies, carrying fire-brands in their hands, in dreadful attire; and the Druids, amidst the rattling of chariot wheels, and the din of spears and shields, pouring out prayers, and horrid imprecations.

The R O M A N S.

IN this rude but independant manner did the Britons long remain, till the Romans had aspired to the highest pinnacle of glory, till, their victorious arms seemed to disdain the boundaries of human power. When *nations, armies*, and almost the known world *had sunk* under the weight of the conquering

CHAP. I. ing Cæsar's potent arm. He, not content with the submission of bending kingdoms. Not gluttred with millions of sacrifices that fell beneath his sanguine ambition, cast his eye upon this island, then but little known to the proud world, either for its extent or prowess. Its riches and renown, could not allure him, but the mighty project of carrying his conquering legions into a new world was the grand temptation.

THE Britons informed of his intention ; and sensible of their own inability to contend with so powerful a foe, endeavoured to appease him by submissions, which proved ineffectual, for he landed his armament near Deal, and gained several advantages over them, and made them deliver hostages for their obedience to his future will.—
He had no sooner left the shore than they

Anno
Mundi
3873.
Anno ant.
C. 54.

they neglected to obey his injunctions, CHAP. 1.
which so irritated him that he determined to punish them, for breach of treaty, the succeeding summer. He then landed with a more considerable force, but was opposed by the Britons in a manner he little expected. They had firmly united their force under Cassivelaunus, one of their Princes, who was brave but unfortunate: for his army was driven, by the Roman veterans, from place to place, and beaten in every action. But those victories were not obtained without a noble struggle by the natives, fighting for, what is ever dear to a good citizen, his country. —

Oh ambition! what hast thou not done. When we review those times of dread calamity, shall we look for the deepest distress, into the agitated bosom

CHAP. bosom of the afflicted mother, parting,
 1. for ever, from the mature offspring of her affection, struggling their last with an experienced foe? Or into the throbbing heart of the partner of her existence, expiring in a glorious cause, that of his country, his family, and friends?—Tell me not of the vast achievements of the mighty Cæsar; the disturber of public tranquillity; the torturing butcher of the human race! who to conquest added fire that destroyed whole districts, peopled then, only, by the infirm and aged.

ROME no sooner heard of the success of Cæsar's arms in Britain, than she decreed to his honour a general thanksgiving, to her Gods, for the space of twenty days. But mark the result of his transitory eminence. He, on his return to Rome, aspired to sovereign

vereign rule, which occasioned a civil war, in which a party of the discontented rushed upon him in the senate house, and gave him twenty three wounds in his body. Thus died Julius Cæsar after being emperor only five months. He was the scourge of powerful nations, and the dread of this, whose frown had laid thousands breathless at his feet, and he, at last, with all his stern command, *dropt helpless*, a bleeding spectacle to wondering multitudes.

CHAP.
I.
Cæsar's
death.

LEICESTER

Is supposed to have been founded by the aborigines of Britain, but neither history nor tradition enable us to speak with certainty, respecting the operations of the human race at this early period. However its antiquity has

VOL. I.

D

been

CHAP. I. been long ranked among the first class of Cities in this kingdom. It was called before and during the Roman government, successively, *Lege-cestria*, *Legura*, and *Legeocester*, and in the Saxon annals *Legerceaster*, *Ligoraceaster*, *Legraceaster*, *Lygeaceaster*, and *Leigoraceaster*, and since *Leicester*. Its name imports a City or Castle standing upon the river Leir, now called the Soar. A King Leir has the reputation of building it eight hundred and forty four years before Christ. *f* The same author informs us that this King erected the great Temple Janus, *g* that stood

The names
that have
been gi-
ven Lei-
cester.

f Jeffery ap Arthur.

g Janus was the most antient king of Italy, who received Saturn when his son Jupiter banished him from Crete, and gave him part of his kingdom. Saturn taught him husbandry and

stood near, or upon the ground, where CHAP. I.
 now stands St. Nicholas' Church,
 wherein he placed a flamine or high
 priest, and wherein also that King was
 buried.

OTHERS, and perhaps with more
 certainty, have supposed that, that
 Temple was built by the Romans in
 the succeeding times, where we will
 refer the reader for a more particular
 account. *b*

E M P E R O R S.

and coining money ; and he was esteemed the
 wisest of kings. He was always painted with
 two faces emblematical of his knowledge of
 things past and foresight of those to come. He
 also holds a key in his hand figurative of wis-
 dom, as being capable of unlocking doubts, in-
 tricacies and mysteries. The Alters of Janus
 shew that the honour and adoration of the Al-
 mighty is the effect of understanding, and that
 none but fools say there is no God.

* See the reign of Hairus Domitian.

ALTHO' we mean to give but little more than a catalogue of the Roman Emperors that succeeded Julius Cæsar, to the Saxon's time, with the memoirs annexed, as they occur in order; yet some may imagine that, even *that little*, more properly, belongs to the Roman than the English History. We wish to³ reply, that our intention is to convey to the reader of *less experience* some knowledge of those times which gave birth to a Religion, that hath influenced in its favour an extensive part of the inhabited world.

OCTAVIANUS AUGUSTUS, succeeded Julius Cæsar, who was actually preparing to invade Britain but was prevented by presents from its inhabi-

tants

tants. He died fourteen years after CHAP.
I.
Christ's incarnation. After him

TIBERIUS reigned, who left Britain without a romish garrison. Under Pontius Pilate, his deputy in Jerusalem, the *Prince of Peace* was adjudged to die an ignominious death. Tiberius was smothered after an inglorious reign, and was succeeded by A. D. 39.

CÆSAR CALIGULA. Adminus Cunobelin the son of a king in Britain, being banished by his father, fled to Caligula with a small force, who had the vanity, from this rash action, to fancy himself the subduer of this Country. This emperor was killed after a short reign ; After him

CLAUDIUS

; Pontius Pilate being banished, slew himself at Lyons, in France, in the last year of this reign. Eusebius.

CHAP. 1. CLAUDIUS DRUSUS governed, he entered Britain with a great force, and found much difficulty in subduing a brave people headed by Caractacus, a valiant prince, who after being vanquished, was, by the treachery of a woman, delivered to his enemies, who lead him, and his noble family to Rome, loaded with chains. His great fortitude and affecting speech when before Claudius, surrounded by amazing multitudes, had such an effect upon the Emperor that he immediately ordered his chains to be taken off, and the rest of the royal Captives their liberty. Claudius died of poison tempered in a mushroom and was succeeded by

NERO, & In his time, Queen Boadicea,

& St. Peter and St. Paul suffered martyrdom under him.

dicea, who was the chosen leader of the Britons, surprized the Roman camp, and in the heat of a furious temper destroyed not less than seventy thousand souls. After this her army was totally routed and not less than the like number of them perished: she unable to sustain this loss poisoned her self. Nero also died by his own hands, after the most impious reign that ever disgraced the annals of mankind.

70.

SERGIUS GALBA was his successor, who governed but a few months.

CHRISTIANITY, although it had been preached in Britain before this time, had made but slow advances. Among the early instructors of its glorious Truths were Joseph of Arimathea / who buried the body of Jesus, and

/ Dorotheus.

C H A P. and Simon Zelotes.^m St. Peter and
 1. St. Paul are supposed to have
 preached here. Mary Magdeline,
 Lazarus, and Martha, being banished
 from Jerusalem in a Ship without
 tackling, landed here.ⁿ—After Galba

O T H O, acceded to the imperial
 Diadem who held it but a few days
 and fell by his own hands.

VITELLIUS, that succeeded him,
 reigned but a few months; being
 taken off by the hands of the com-
 mon executioner.

VESPASIAN was chosen his suc-
 cessor, who reigned ten years. He
 sent Julius Agricola to be his deputy
 in Britain, whose complaisance began
 to gain the affections of her people.

TITUS

^m Theodoret.

ⁿ C. Baronias.

TITUS, his son, succeeded him, CHAP.
I.
who governed but a short time.

DOMITIAN^o who followed caused himself to be called a God. He died an unnatural death, his wife conspiring against him.

THE Britains under the deputyship of Agricola grew enamoured with politeness. They were taught to despise their humble dwellings, and to build superb Houses, Temples, and Palaces. The sons of their chiefs were sent to Rome to be educated: who on their return introduced the customs, arts, and manners of a polished people, and the concomitant train of luxuries. Warm baths were erected in almost every place, to effect

VOL. I.

E

after

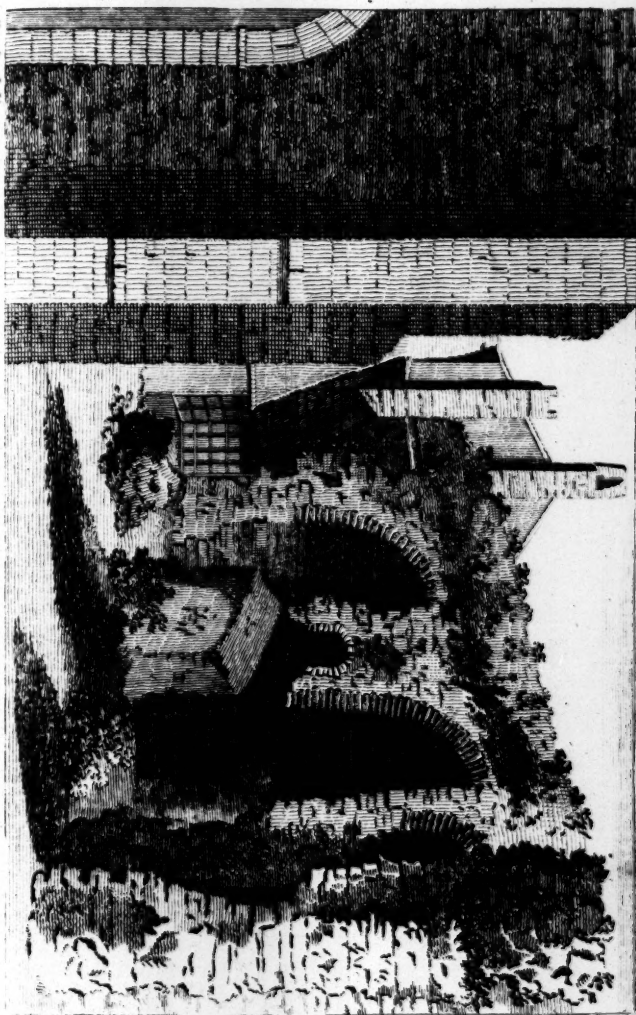
^o This Tyrant banished St. John into the Isle of Patmos where he received the Revelations.

C H A P. I. after their frequent debaucheries, what pure nature refused to assist in. This soon begat in them a degeneracy of their original simplicity and manners, that unperceptibly sunk them into indolence and effeminacy.

J E W R Y - W A L L.

PERHAPS there never was a piece of antiquity so little known, as to its use, as the admired antique called by the Inhabitants of Leicester, Jewry-Wall. It is supposed by some, to have been part of a bath built here about this time. That it was erected in ages very remote, I think, none will venture to deny. But the conjecture of those who have supposed it to have been a place of sacrifice, in the druids time, is easily refuted by any intelligent reader, who has read their history. We find that their manner
of

Brick wall.



BRICK WALL.



of sacrificing was in great wicker Idols CHAP.
which contained a prodigious number
of those poor devoted creatures,
which doubtless were consumed with
the victims.

OTHERS, among whom is Burton, supposed it to be part of the Temple Janus, that stood near there. ^p It is perfectly manifest that the Romans, or the inhabitants of these parts, preceding them, sacrificed here, as it has been very frequent at different periods of time to dig up bones of beasts in large quantities, in a place near there, called holy-bones. The innate forwardness of the lower orders of the people to meet wonders, has made them conjecture those bones to have been human at first sight. They were, probably, the remains of the mangled sacrifices, the Romans made to their

^p See page 26, vol. 1.

CHAP. their god, Janus Bifrons, to whose
 1. honour the first Temple was built in
 Rome by Romulus and Tatius, in a
 place called Argiletum. ¶

Mr. Cart, the historian, says,—
 “ Mr. Burtoⁿ’s notion of a Temple
 “ of Janus at Leicester has no toler-
 “ able reason to support it. The
 “ place called Holy-Bones is the scite
 “ of a Church which was dedicated to
 “ St. Augustin and St. Columbus,
 “ and was demolished (if I am not mis-
 “ taken) soon after the conquest.” r

Another industrious Antiquarian, s
 says,

q This Temple was always open in time of
 war but shut in time of peace.

r This opinion of Mr. Cart’s stands almost
 alone; but it would have been unpardonable
 in me to have omitted that of so great a Man,
 when in possession of it.

s Mr. Salmon.

says, " As to remains of a *British* CHAP.
 " Temple at *Leicester* we may con-
 " tent ourselves without seeing when
 " even the religious Houses, so ma-
 " jestick and expressive of the later
 " age are no more to be seen, but—
 " *Ipse periere Ruinæ* — Yet some tra-
 " ces of this *British* Temple may be
 " found in the place, called Holy-
 " Bones, where the bones of Oxen
 " sacrificed have been frequently,
 " upon digging, turned up. These
 " must have been brought hither for
 " sacrifice, and nothing else. Where
 " we find the name of a Temple, and,
 " the reliques of their worship, so
 " apparently together, we have all
 " the evidence the nature of the thing
 " admits."

As this ancient Wall has long per-
 plexed the learned, I will lay before

the

CHAP. the public the Rev. Mr. Cart's^t ac-
 I. count of it, from a MSS. in the Bod-
 lean Library; mine shall follow lest it
 should bare the marks of vanity.

“ I cannot but wonder (says that
 “ Gentleman,) at what Mr. Burton
 “ writes concerning Janus' Temple
 “ here; that which he so calls, is
 “ commonly known by the name of
 “ Jewry-Wall. It is at the west end
 “ of St. Nicholas' Church-yard, and
 “ what remains of it serves for a wall;
 “ yet it was as, I doubt not, a build-
 “ ing that took up a great deal of the
 “ area of the Church-yard, and the
 “ materials of it were, in a great
 “ measure, made use of in building
 “ that church; as appears by the
 “ British, or Roman, bricks or tiles,

“ visible

^t Formerly Vicar of St. Martin's Leicester.

“ visible in the walls of it. It is diff- CHAP.
I.

“ cult to judge now what the use of

“ it was ; but I am apt to think it

“ was of the same nature with the

“ Wery-Wall in Lancaster, or the old

“ works in Worcester ; and if one

“ had an opportunity of viewing all

“ these and comparing them together,

“ one might, perhaps, make a pro-

“ bable guess at their use. “

“ The

“ Mr. Cart not describing these Walls, I
have collected the following particulars from
Camden respecting them. In the Article Lan-
caster after mentioning a church there, he says,

“ A little beneath which, by a fair bridge over

“ Lone, in the descent and side of the hill where

“ it is steepest, hangeth a piece of most ancient

“ Wall of Roman work seeming ready to reel ;

“ Wery-Wall they call it after a later British

“ name, as it should seem of this town. For

“ they called it *Caer Wood*, as one would say,

“ The green City, happily of that fresh green

“ hill. But I leave this to others.” Under

the

CHAP. " The remains of it (continues he)
 1. " are about 28 yards long; and on
 " the outside the height of it is about
 " 9 or 10 yards, raised up by several
 " strata of rough forest stone and of
 " brick or tile. (I will call it brick)
 " each brick is about 18 inches long,
 " 15 broad, and about 2 inches thick
 " or thereabouts, for some are bigger
 " and some less. The mortar between
 " the

the article Worcester after mentioning some
 coins found there, he says, " Besides them I
 " saw nothing of antiquity but in one place
 " some parcels of broken Walls (which the
 " common people call the old Work of Wor-
 " cester.) This Wall was built of rough stone
 " distinguished outwardly with seven rows of
 " British bricks in equal distance, and brought
 " up with arched work inwardly. I con-
 " jecture, by the uneven ground, by the ram-
 " pires and the rubbish of the wall here and
 " there on either side, that the Castle stood in
 " that very place where these ruins remain."

" the bricks is full as thick as the CHAP.
" bricks. I reckon 17 strata in the
" following order.

" 1 — 4 Rows of stone 27 inches
high.

" 2 — 3 Rows of brick about 10
inches high.

" 3 — 3 Rows of stone 18 inches
high.

" 4 — 3 Rows of brick 8 in. high.

" 5 — 4 Rows of stone 23 in. high.

" 6 — 3 Rows of brick.

" 7 — 4 Rows of stone.

" 8 — 3 Rows of brick.

" 9 — 3 Rows of stone.

" 10 — 3 Rows of brick.

" 11 — 3 Rows of stone.

" 12 — 3 Rows of brick.

" 13 — 4 Rows of stone, above here
it is defaced, but there
seems to be

CHAP. " 14 — 3 Rows of brick.

1.

" 15 — 4 Rows of stone.

" 16 — 3 Rows of brick.

" 17 — 4 Rows of stone.

" IN the wall near the middle, at 5
" yards distance from each other,
" there are 2 large arches, which ser-
" ved for entrances into it, about 3
" yards wide, and 4 yards and half high;
" there are also several holes in the
" wall about 6 inches square, viz. in
" the 3d, 6th, 9th, 13th, and 17th
" stratum. The holes in this last are
" as large again as the other, and
" pass quite through the wall, where-
" as the first do not appear to be so,
" tho' there are some holes like them
" on the inside. The wall on the in-
" side has no facing, as being broke
" off roughly from the parts that were
" con-

“ continued to it, and it consists of
“ four arches : The two largest are
“ in the middle, and in part answer
“ the two on the outside which were
“ made for entrances, but are made
“ larger within, and the entrances
“ are not in the middle of them. In
“ the column between these two great
“ arches there appears the remainder
“ of an arch work which seems to be
“ made for reverberating heat, and in
“ all the inside the blackness of the
“ stones and bricks retain plain indi-
“ cations of fire and smoke. The
“ two other arches are near as high
“ and in shape are much like the other
“ but not so large.

“ In the south arch a poor woman
“ has a little house who shewed me
“ two stones now placed in the outer-
“ most

CHAP. 1. “ most wall of her house, which she
“ said, she was informed, were taken
“ out of the arch within her house,
“ and placed where they now are.
“ That tho’ the person living there
“ was not at home, yet persons of vi-
“ sibility might see them. One of
“ them is in the exact form of a cross
“ formy or Patee, as I think it is
“ called. It is 13 inches over, and
“ the breadth of each of the four arms
“ at the decreffation is 4 inches; and
“ at the end 6 or 7. The other stone
“ has a cross made and it is about ten
“ inches long.

“ I somewhat doubt of the truth of
“ the woman’s relation as to the place
“ where the stones were taken out,
“ because I can discover no such
“ formed stones in any part of the
“ work.”

As

As this description was taken, at CHAP.
1.
least, three-score years ago, it necessarily behoves me to shew, wherein its present state differs from the above : whether from decay or error.

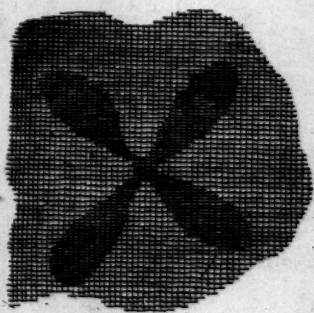
IN September 1777, we made a drawing of the wall ; and at the same time I examined the woman, who at present occupies the little dwelling spoken of above, if she had ever seen, or been asked for two particular stones I described to her ; but was unable to learn any thing from her respecting them. I then examined the inside of her abode, but to no purpose : but on my strictly examining the outside I found the last mentioned nearly covered with mortar ; which I soon pickt off with a trowel, to the extremity of the stone on all sides.

For

CHAP. I. FOR the inspection of the curious reader I have procured an engraving of this stone, and added to it something like Mr. Cart's drawing, which he made with his pen, of the other.

THE length and the height of the Jewry-wall seem to have undergone no material alteration since Mr. Cart's time. The front of the broken part towards the little dwelling, must be suffering almost daily by the heedless boys who play in the church-yard; and who, to shew their dexterity in climbing, often obtain the summit by the help of the projecting stones. It is a pity both for the boys safety and the preservation of this antiquity, that their little ruthless limbs should be suffered to assist in annihilating a subject
that

For the Manoirs of Leicestershire.



Stones mentioned by the Rev.^d Mr. Cart.



that has, for ages, resisted the sepa- CHAP.
ting hand of time, amid' the rage of a
furious country : which has been so re-
peatedly distracted by unnatural broils.

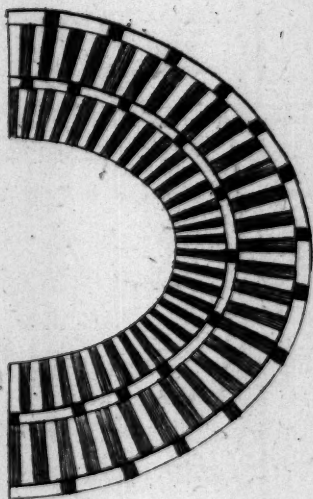
THE south arch, wherein the wo-
man lives, seems to be of the same
magnitude as the second and fourth.
The second is 13 feet high and 12
feet wide. The third is a little jutting
arch 4 feet over. The fourth is the
same as the second. The fifth is 12
feet by 6.

THERE are some few errors in Mr.
Cart's measurement of the layers of
brick and stone, or else I did not find
where he measured. When I had
gained admittance into the garden
on the west side, where I made a draw-
ing of an arch that seems to have been
over the entrance, I there found the
wall,

CHAP. wall, in its thickest part, to be 7 feet
1. over. This front, as I will call it, has a very different appearance to the view in the church-yard : its surface somewhat indicates the cut-side of a building ; in which are only two arches ; and they do not in the least project from the wall, as on the other side. That which I take to have been the entrance, is made with two rows of brick, as you see described in the annexed engraving : and it is singularly curious of its kind. In every part of this wall, on this side in particular, the mortar takes up as much space as the brick : the reason of which is, I take to be, its being made of gravel instead of sand. On this side the layers of brick and stone are in the following order, from the surface of the ground.

No.

Twining page 48 Vol. 1





N
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13

ge
co

th
fo
wi

No.

CHAP.

- 1 — 4 Rows of stone 22 in : high.
- 2 — 3 — of brick 10 in :
- 3 — 3 — of stone 18 in :
- 4 — 3 — of brick 10 in :
- 5 — 5 — of stone 2 feet. in :
- 6 — 3 — of brick 10 in :
- 7 — 4 — of stone 22 in :
- 8 — 3 — of brick 9 in :
- 9 — 3 — of stone 12 in :
- 10 — 3 — of brick 9 in :
- 11 — 2 — of stone 11 in :
- 12 — 3 — of brick 9 in :
- 13 — 3 — of stone 15 in :

Above which are about 6 feet of ragged stone and brick, whose front, or conjoin'd parts, are gone.

Being desirous of learning something that might lead to a discovery of its former magnitude (for I fear its use will never be discovered by the most

VOL. I.

G

sagacious

CHAP. sagacious antiquarian) I employed some
1. workmen to dig, on the east side, transversely, and in a right direction with the wall, thinking to find a foundation, which I intended to have traced to its extent; but it no where continued a foot beyond the projecting parts.

There have been found on the opposite side, between this Wall and the river, which is near a quarter of a mile, strong foundations in various places, made of materials resembling the base of this Wall; but I dare not even conjecture that they ever had any connection with it. Alas! the vestiges of this antique seem enveloped in unrecoverable darkness.—Man may supplicate and explore in enquiries of this kind, but the issue of them often terminates in perplexities the most

mortifying

mortifying to his views. Altho' by ^{CHAP.}
industry and art he may successfully ^{I.}
examine the manifold beauties of animated nature, the rich firmament above him, the astonishing swelling and depression of the sea, the bowels of the earth, and the revolutions of seasons : yet *antiquity bears such a semblance to eternity*, that in its pursuits he is often, when he is endeavouring to unvail the hidden mysteries of ages past, learnt a lesson of humiliation : he is taught to lament the insufficiency of human nature. For while he is drawing from the gloom of past time the very beginning of his enquiries, he is commonly opposed by the various judgments of his predecessors, who have been led to err by *ignorance or partiality*.——
Some conclusion has consequently occurred to me from my endeavours to investigate this mysterious subject,
which

C H A P. which I willingly present to the reader,
1. but with that diffidence which I hope will secure me from the imputation of vanity. A Temple dedicated to Janus I have not a doubt was built in St. Nicholas's Church-yard, probably where the church stands: Jewry-Wall I think was never part of that Temple; but yet was built for a place of sacrifice for the idolatrous worshippers of Janus; and that the holy-bones was a place set a part for depositing the bones of the sacrifices. This admitted, can we wonder that no traces of even the foundation of that great Temple are to be found?—The spreading of the Gospel Truth could not fail to hasten its annihilation: for we find, that where its powerful influence prevailed, the towering temples of an heathen world stood tottering.

tering with uselessness, and crumbling into invisibility !

CHAP.
I.

THE curious reader will, I presume, view that venerable pile, St. Nicholas's Church, that was doubtless built out of the remains of that perishing structure, Janus' Temple, if there be nothing in it to attract the incurious passenger, yet *he will contemplate* in beholding a part of that which was adored by our unenlightened fathers, at the vast space of, perhaps, two thousand years. In it there are visible, rows upon rows of strongly cemented bricks, that have spurned at the devastations of Time. *v*

NERVA

v This Church is perfectly destitute of the indications of refined architecture : its walls are immoderately thick, the pillars and arches that support the roof are heavy, and consequently an impediment to the preacher. There were formerly

CHAP. NERVA succeeded Domitian, who
 I. reigned only one year, ^w and was followed by

TRAGIAN ^x

GRAND-ROADS.

THE Romans about this time perpetuated their memories in Britain by making great roads through the island.
 One

formerly three Hes, but about the year 1697 that towards the north was taken down in consequence of its ruinous state. The parish is small, and formerly unable to maintain a Preacher, for which reason it was held by the Vicar of St. Martin's, but since, by the beneficence of Queen Ann, the liberality of the Corporation, and the contribution of the Parishioners, it is provided with a Clergyman.

^w Within this year St. John returned from his banishment, into Ephesus.

^x This Emperor punished the Jews for their infidelity toward Christ.

One of them, called Watling-street, CHAP.
separates this county from Warwick-
shire. Another is called the Foss,
which passes through the very heart of
Leicestershire, and near the west part
of the town of Leicester, where its re-
mains are in great perfection, notwith-
standing it has been much contracted
by encroachments, and dismembered in
several places by necessity. It be-
speaks, at once, the power of the
dreaded Romans, and the submission of
our conquered ancestors, who tamely
suffered their enemies to make such in-
roads into their, before, impenetrable
country.

THE conquered Britons, it is
imagined, were either tame spectators
of these inroads; or were obliged to
work at them; which seemed princi-
pally to weaken the remaining strength
that

CHAP. that was left among those, who had
 I. taken possession of the woody and interior parts of the island, cherishing their dying sparks of liberty and genuine simplicity.

Road-
 Dikes
 near Leicester.

It is not improbable but that the *Road* or *Rawdikes* were cast up about this time, for the purposes above-mentioned. Their antiquity has never been disputed by the learned, but often admired. The absurd opinion which prevails among the vulgar in Leicester, that they were cast up at the siege of that place, in *Charles the first's* time, deserves no other refutation than to observe here, that *Camden* and others, who wrote prior to that civil war, have mentioned them. Although they are called dikes in consequence of a dismemberment or two, yet originally, it is plain, they were then entire. They
 are

are about half a Mile south of *Leicester*; CHAP.
the race ground lies through a part of
them. They are in length about a
quarter of a mile, and very lofty at the
south end. y

THE two grand roads above menti-
oned, meet near *Cleibroke* in this Coun-
ty, where formerly stood a Cross erec-

VOL. I. H ted

y *Cæsar* informs us that the Britons fortified
themselves in thick woods, with a rampier and
trench, to avoid the incursions of the enemy.
—It seems not therefore a very hazardous con-
jecture that this rampier was cast up by the an-
cient Britons, for that purpose. — One of the
Ald. of *Leicester*, who a few years since rented
that part of *St. Mary's* fields where this rampier
is, put the lovers of antiquity here in a strange
panic, by hiring a party of soldiers that was
quartered in *Leicester*, to level it; part of
which was effected; but by the interposition of
one of his Brethren, the former Gentleman was
dissuaded from his purpose, and their fears sub-
sided.

EHAP. ted there by the Romans, instead of
 which, in *Mr. Camden's* time, there
 stood a high post, with supporters.
 There now stands, on the same ground,
 a substitute, placed there by a prede-
 cessor of the present Earl of Denbigh,
 upon four doric pillars with the follow-
 ing lines :

*Vicinarum provinciarum Vervisensis
 Scilicet & Leicestrensis ornamenta
 Præceres Patriciique aspiciis
 Illustrissimi Basilii Comititis de
 Denbigh hanc Columnam statuendam
 Curaverunt in gratam patritæ
 Et perpetuam memoriam Jani tandem
 A Serenissima Anna clausi
 A. D. 1712.*

On the opposite side,
*Si veterum Romanorum vestigia
 Quæras hic cernas, Viator. Hic enim
 Celeberrima*

*Celeberrimæ illorum Viæ militares
 Sese mutuo secantos, ad extremos usque
 Britannia limites procurrant, hic
 Stativa sua habuerunt Vennones, & ad
 Primum abhinc Lapidem Castra sua
 Ad Stratam & ad Hossam Tumulum
 Claudius quidem Cohortis præfectus
 Habuisse videtur. x*

CLEIBROKE.

ANCIENTLY called *Cleycester*, was a flourishing city in the Romans time, and extended to those high-ways above-named. Their meeting where this cross now stands, might contribute much to its opulence. A few centuries back there were strong indications of its former magnificence conspicuous in its ruins: the foundations
 of

x The above was written by Mr. George Greenaway, formerly Schoolmaster at Coventry.

CHAP. I. of extensive buildings were discoverable in various places. And in later times coins of emperors, antique inscriptions, large square stones, and bricks, have been found among the ruins of that perished city. Burton has given us the inscriptions of two coins turned up by the plow near this place: the first is of the emperor *Caius Caligula* in copper stamped at *Occo* A D 42. Upon one side is the emperor with a large laurel-wreath with this inscription C. CÆSAR DIVI AVLI PRON. AVG. P. M. T. R. V. IIII. P. P. On the other side OESTA. S. C. *vesta* sitting in a chair holding in her right hand a dish.

The other coin is of *Constantine the Great*: on one side the face has a laurel-wreathed, circumscribed with CONSTANTINUS, P. FAVCI. And on the other

other side SOLI INVICTO COMITI T. CHAP.
P. T. R. with the figure of the sun stamped
A. D. 306.

So far as the city extended the
earth is of a darker colour than at some
little distance ; it is also of such rich-
ness that the husbandmen have taken it
to their lands as dung. ^a Tradition
says that this city was governed by a
senate of Aldermen.

THE *Benmones Mansion*, that *Antoni-*
nus ^b placed after *Banaventu*, was here
it is imagined as the *Foss-way* leads to

Lincoln

^a *Sir William Dugdale.*

^b *Antoninus* was a roman emperor, who de-
scribed most of the cities that stood on those high
roads mentioned above.

CHAP. *Lincoln* by *Ratæ* now *Leicester*, *c* and
 1. *Vernometum* now *Burrow*.

NOTWITHSTANDING the above as-
 sertions,

c It seems by this, that *Leicester* had another name besides those given above. But take *Mr. Camden's* words on this subject. "What name *Leicester* had in the Romans time, is not known in the catalogue of *Ninnus*. I think it be that which is called *Caer Lerion*. But the situation upon the foss-way and the distance from *Benones* and *Vernometum*, agreeeth so jult with the description of *Antonine*, that I cannot but think it that *Ratæ* which *Ptolomee* nameth *Ragæ*, although there is neither tip nor toe remaining in it of the name *Ratæ*; unless peradventure it be in that old long ditch and rampier which they call *Raw-Dikes*, scarce half a mile without the south-gate."—The late *Mr. Tho. Lee* of *Leicester* once remarked to me on this passage of *Camden*, that, that writer certainly never heard of a place called *Ratby* near *Leicester*, which doubtless bears some analogy to *Ratæ*. It might have been formerly, observed *Mr. Lee*, *By-Ratæ*, which a long succession of time may have altered to *Rat-By*.

fersions, some writers have had their CHAP.
1.
 doubts respecting this Roman settle-
 ment: and another has almost posi-
 tively denied this place to have been
 the Bennones Mansion mentioned by
 Antoninus. One *d* of the former says,
 "The ruins of Cley-Chester are not
 "entirely perished, if that be the ro-
 "man place that was near High-
 "Cross, there are still footsteps left
 "of it, and part of Sharnford-field is
 "now in the parish of Cleibrook,
 "and this part, as I take, was where
 "the City stood." The latter Gen-
 tleman *e* says, "Bennonis, wherever
 "it stands, has been a place of con-
 "sequence. The character it has
 "borne

d Mr. Cart the historian.

e Mr. Salmon, whose opinion is seldom
 consonant with others.

CHAP. " borne would indeed make one look

1.

" somewhere else for it than here,

" where little of remains is to be

" found, but by the help of imagina-

" tion, *Mr. Baxter* makes it to have

" been the residence of the famous

" *Prasutagis*, the head of the *Britannia*

" *Secunda*, and indeed of the island. —

" *Et quod ad hunc usque diem perdurat*

" *fama, urbem hanc fuisse olim Senatu*

" *Nobilem, atque imperio potentem, quod*

" *& Camdenus memorat.* This is much

" too grand for anything to be traced

" here." *f* Such is the reasoning upon

" which

" *f* *Mr. Salmon* might surely know that some

" of the greatest Cities, in the ancient world,

" have sunk into the obscurity of miserable vil-

" lages. The once magnificent *Palmyra* is now

" become the abode of a few wretched families in

" mud cottages. Nought but her marble col-

" umns, that are as durable as adamant, have

" withstood the wreck of time.

which this writer founds his objections CHAP.
1.
against the concurrent opinions of all
that have preceded him on this subject.
But the love of novelty seems, on ma-
ny occasions, to have excited him to
start new hypothesis, which have served
rather to bewilder than to edify; to
veil truth rather than to render it *con-*
spicuous. It seems therefore needless to
trouble the Reader with any more of
his objections, respecting this *article*,
as they appear equally futile. But to
have passed over in silence the opinions
of men who have written on subjects
within the plan of this work, would
indicate *at least partiality*, if not want
of industry. g

THESE grand Stations, or Cities,
were very convenient for the accommo-
VOL. I. I dation

g Dr. Stukeley thinks that this Roman set-
tlement is near the centre of England, because
there are rivers that run thence every way.

CHAP. 1. dation of passengers. At proper distances, between each, were placed young men swift on foot, to give early intelligence when any thing was agitating, amongst the restless Britons, that might be prejudicial to the state, *b* and on both sides the roads were erected tombs and sepulchres, with inscriptions, to perpetuate the heroic actions of the dead.

EMPERORS.

b “ The advantage of receiving the earliest intelligence, and of conveying their orders with celerity, induced the Emperors to establish throughout their extensive dominions, the regular institution of posts. Houses were every where erected at the distance only of five or six miles; each of them was constantly provided with forty horses, and by the help of these relays, it was easy to travel an hundred miles in a day along the the Roman roads.” *Gibbon's Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire.*

HADRIANⁱ was chosen, by the army, the successor of Trajan. He came into Britain to suppress a rebellion, which he effected in its infancy, and was succeeded by

133

ANTONIUS surnamed Pius. In the beginning of his reign the northern Britons revolted, but were soon subdued. This Emperor was a great defender of the christians : After him

MARCUS AURELIUS governed. In his time Lucius a British king embraced christianity, who is esteemed the first christian king in the world.—His successor was

181

ANTONINUS COMMODUS, who was
murdered.

ⁱ In his reign Jerusalem was totally destroyed as had been predicted.

CHAP. I. murdered. From this Emperors inability to govern, the Britons had a favourable opportunity to shake off their subjection to Rome, but it was imprudently omitted. Then

HELVIUS PERTINAX became Rome's monarch ; he was stabbed in the first year of his reign ; as was also his successor

DIDIUS JULIANUS.

SEPTIMUS SEVERIUS was then elected Emperor. He entered Britain with a prodigious army ; fifty thousand of whom was taken off by an epidemical disorder. A people called Caledonians taking advantage of their feeble state, revolted, which brought upon them an almost general massacre. This Emperor made use of the following lines

from

from Homer when he let loose his rage CHAP.
I.
on a devoted people.

“ Namo manus fugiat vestras, cæ-
demq; cruentam

“ Non fætus, grauida mater quem
gestat in aluo,

“ Horrendam effugiat cædem.

Let none escape your bloody rage;
with terror let all die

Spare not the mother nor the child that
in her womb doth lie.

NOR were the innocent distinguish-
ed from the guilty in this horrid car-
nage; alike were all made the victims
of his ungovernable rage. He died at
York.

BURROW.

AN ancient place in this county,
formerly

CHAP. ^{1,} formerly called *Erdburrow*, situate near the borders of Rutlandshire, is confidently asserted to be Vernometum that is mentioned by Antoninus, in his Itinerary. Near here, there appears the traces of a considerable Town and Fort, a tract where the walls went, which encloses about 18 acres of land, a double trench, and other indications of military antiquity. As Septimus Severus took great pains in repairing the fortifications in this kingdom, and rebuilding others that had been almost erased by time, and the devastations of war, Erdburrow could not escape the penetration of one, who thought Britain such an acquisition to Rome as to sacrifice very much of his time, and an army of great magnitude to keep the people, in it, subject to his dominion. It lying near the centre of the kingdom, and on the high road where his
army

army passed, was of too much consequence to be neglected by that veteran. CHAP.

Among the rest of his military improvements in Britain, he certainly did either repair or make Burrow a place of resistance. The following may serve to illustrate this subject: ^k

“VERNOMETUM which now hath
 “lost its name, seemeth to have stood
 “in that place which at this day men
 “call *Burrow-hill* and *Erdburrow*, for
 “between Vernometum and Ratae ac-
 “cording to Antonine his reckoning
 “are twelve Italian miles; and so ma-
 “ny will near there be, from Leices-
 “ter to this place.—The name Bur-
 “row it also hath at this day, came
 “from Burgh, which in the Saxon
 “tongue signifieth a place fortified.”
 “——And out of the name Verno-
 “metum,”

^k From Camden.

CHAP. "metum," the same author says,—

1. "a man may conjecture that there
 " stood there some Temple of the
 " heathen Gods. For Vernometum
 " in the ancient Gauls language,
 " which was the same that the old
 " Britains tongue, soundeth as much
 " as a great Temple, as Venantius
 " Fortunatus in his first book of his
 " songs plainly showeth writing of
 " Vernometum a Town of Gaul, in
 " these verses,

" Noimine Vernometum voluit voci-
 tare vetustas,

" Quod quasi sanum ingens Gallica
 lingua sonat.

" In elder times this place they term-
 ed by name of Vernomet,

" Which sounds in language of the
 Gauls, as much as Temple-Great."

Mr. Salmon

Mr. Salmon contends that Burrow CHAP.
1.
was not Vernometum the Roman Sta-

tion, but rather Leicester. He sup-
poses it to have been a Roman Camp
only.—As the learned Bishop Gibson's

account of Burrow is at hand, I will
not scruple to give it to the reader.

“ The double ditch and track of the

“ walls are pretty plain. The en-

“ trance into it both now and ancient-

“ ly was from the east and by south.

“ There are two banks cast up about

“ ten yards in length and five or six

“ in distance one from the other;

“ where the portal appears to have

“ been, and where the entrance is

“ partly level from the field adjoining

“ there being a steep and upright as-

“ cent on all other sides. The inter-

“ pretation of a great Temple seems

“ to answer the state of the place ex-

“ ceeding well ; for there does not

VOL. I.

J

“ appear

CHAP. “ appear so much of a town demolish-
 1. “ ed as some great building; and ra-
 “ ther a Temple than any other, to
 “ which the several adjacent colonies
 “ might conveniently resort.”

As the Author of these little volumes wishes to avoid the imputation of *vanity* it may be rather hazardous, after the respectable authorities above, to venture an humble opinion; but a duty he owes his readers urges him to observe. That in the earliest ages, while the Britons lived under the dominion of their native passions, they might erect here a Temple for the purpose of adoring, in it, their imaginary God; and the Romans, who, to subject the world to their domain, regarded not the most sacred rights of mankind, might make use of its materials to convert it into a place of military strength to awe the conquered Britons

tons in these parts. Understood in CHAP.
this light the various opinions of Au-
thors are in some measure accounted
for.

ANTONINUS BASSIANUS was the son
and successor of Sevirus, who it is said
killed his brother Geta in the arms of
his mother. He was succeeded by

OPILIUS MACRINUS, who was kil-
led in a mutiny after a short reign. 218
After him

AURELIUS ANTONINUS was made
Emperor, who was slain in a tu-
mult of the soldiers with his mother.

AURELIUS ALEXANDER followed,
who died in a military tumult. The
army then elected

MAXIMINUS. He was slain with
his son after a short reign. After-
wards

CHAP. wards there were three Emperors together,
1.

PUPIENUS, BALBINUS, and GORDIAN, a boy; the two former were
239 slain in the palace, the other lost his life, some years after, by treachery. Then the two

PHILIPS, father and son, seized the government, but were both slain by the army. As was also their successor

DECIUS, with his son, among Barbarians. Immediately

GALLUS HOSTILIANUS and Gallus' son VOLUSIANUS were made Emperors, who were both slain, as was also their successor

EMILIANUS, in his third month. After him

LICINIUS

LICINIUS VALERIANUS was made Emperor, and died in slavery amongst the Parthians. CHAP. 1.

GALLIENUS succeeded, in whose time the Roman empire was rent by violent discord, and nearly ruined. Then

CLAUDIUS was elected by the army, and died a natural death: something uncommon in those days. His brother

QUINTILLIUS succeeded him. He was slain on the seventeenth day of his reign. Then

AURELIANUS took upon him the government. He vanquished and took Prisoner the renown'd Queen of the

east

CHAP. east Zenobia. ¹ He died by the hands
 1. of his own domestics.

CLAUDIUS TACITUS was next
 276 elected, and reigned but a few months.
 His successor's reign

FLORIANUS was shorter. After-
 wards

PROBUS was chosen. He was mur-
 dered by his army. Then

CARUS was made Emperor. He
 died by a thunder-stroke. Then the
 empire devolved to

DIOCLESIAN

¹ A woman of singular courage. She was
 led a captive into Rome in chains of gold, af-
 ter the chariot of this Emperor.—The ruins of
 her sam'd city, Palmyra, were discovered by
 some English travellers, about the end of the
 last century.

DIOCLESIAN, whose reign is brand-
ed with horrid marks of cruelty. CHAP.
1.

CHRISTIANITY, by this time, had influenced in its favour numbers of the inhabitants of Britain, who had changed the rude emanations of a state of nature, for the amiable Christian system : whereby their evil tempers and passion were eradicated by the graces that adorn the Religion of Jesus. But this happy change alas ! was succeeded by the most diabolical cruelties that a mad, infatuated, heathen people could invent. The Romans and their fellows in inhumanity plundered and destroyed the churches that had been erected for the service of God ; and committed, where their sacriligious hands were not restrained by secreting, the Bibles of the christians to the flames

CHAP. flames. Not satisfied with the abominable practices they wantonly tortured the advocates of the Gospel with fire and butchery : such as cannot be described without shocking the human frame. Among the numbers that died in Britain, at this time, we are told of a Julius and Aaron who were martyr'd at Leicester. *m* In most parts of Dioclesian's dominions the christians were persecuted in this manner. *n*

GALERIUS and CONSTANTINUS
were

m Beda.—One instance of singular cruelty I cannot refrain mentioning here. At St. Albans, an Amphibolus had one end of his entrails fastened to a stake, and then whipt round about it till he was near dead, and then stoned to put an end to an horrible punishment.

n Not less than seventeen thousand men and women suffered martyrdom in one month. Gildas.

were next declared Emperors. Helina CHAP.
I.
the wife of the former was the daughter of a British prince. * The last of these Emperors died at York. 306

CONSTANTINE the Great succeeded to the Imperial Diadem, who on the death of his father was elected in Britain. He was a great succourer of the christians in every part of his vast empire. He died, pathetically, recommending his soul to Him whose cause he had so ably espoused. After this the empire was divided among four,

VOL. I. K CONSTANTINUS

* She was a great defender of the Christians; built a church on the ground where our Saviour suffered death; and another where the Inn stood whose stable contained the manger wherein he was laid, and did other notable acts for which she has been much esteemed by the advocates of the Gospel dispensation.

CHAP. CONSTANTINUS JUNIOR, and three
1. others, who were succeeded by

JULIANUS, commonly called JULIAN the apostate; he was killed by a javelin in pursuing some fugitives.— Then

FLAVIUS JOVIANUS became emperor; he was stifled. After him

FLAVIUS VALENTINIONUS, and FLAVIUS VALENS, acceded to the empire, and was succeeded by

FLAVIUS, GRACIANUS, and an infant brother, who were both murdered. After these

FLOVIUS THEODOSIUS governed, & was followed by

ARCADIUS and HONORIUS. They were succeeded by

THEODOSIUS

THEODOSIUS and VALENTINIANUS, CHAP.
I.

the last Roman monarchs that governed Britain,—What mighty changes doth time effect!—From the period of Julius Cæsar's invasion of *Britain* to the time of Constantine the Great, she made rapid advances in temporal, as well as spiritual felicities: but now like the setting of the glorious sun, her happiness was sinking into gloom. She was once esteemed the brightest gem that adorned the imperial diadem; but now the time was come when the potent pillars of Rome's mighty fabric must fall, accompanied with the groans of a vast empire!—She had been robbed of her choicest blossoms to serve in the extensive wars of the emperors; and after she had been made impotent by that means was basely deserted.—But Britain was not oppressed alone; all the Roman world shared in the

miserics!

C H A P. 1. miseries ! Yet her distress was of the most complicated kind ; such that the most masterly eloquence is insufficient to express. If we turn our eyes to the barbarous Picts and Scots ; or to the great men struggling for power ; or to the expected friendship of the Saxons, alike we find the inhabitants of this unhappy Isle suffering the most poignant calamities ! Calamities that brought an horrible famine. To those aggregate afflictions their enemies, at last, destroyed by fire, where the sword was ineffectual. And now, when the horrid monster, anarchy, had long rode triumphant spreading devastation, the relicks of a wretched people yielded to the Saxon yoke. The particulars of this conquest, have been ever a clouded story. The valour of the British commanders that withstood those pagans was politically withheld from their descendants

scendants ; lest their fame should excite new commotions. *Vortimer, Ambrosius Aurelianns, Uther Pendragon*, and the renowned king *Arthur*, were amongst the British generals, who fought bravely, during the contest, for their Country.

CHAP.

I.

I will now proceed to acquaint the reader of a few particulars respecting the Heptarchy, under the Saxons : giving a more particular account of the kingdom of Mercia, of which Leicestershire was a part, than of the rest, as being more applicable to our intentions.

CHAP.

CHAP.

2.

CHAP. II.

*The Heptarchy — Mercia — Leicester
a Kingdom — Wilfrid — Earls of
Leicester.*

THE HEPTARCHY.

THE Saxons were first called over into Britain to assist in driving the northern invaders, the Scots and Picts, within their own boundaries. But their leaders, Hengist and Horsa, perceiving the weakness of their allies, soon formed a design of subjecting the Britons to the Saxon yoke: for this purpose they sent intelligence to Saxony of the ease with which they might obtain the conquest of a fertile and rich Country. Tempted at this prospect, numbers of those people arrived in
Britain

Britain, who at length became so numerous, and determined to subdue, that they spread the terror of their arms by general destruction, where the least opposition was made to their intentions. *p* Thus by extirpating some, and driving others into the mountainous country of Wales, eventually produced the founding of the grand Heptarchy, that succeeded.

The kingdom of Kent was founded the first, and by Hengist the Saxon Leader. And the other six, viz. Northumberland, East Anglia, Mercia, Essex, Suffex, and Wessex, were founded

p “ The private and public edifices of the
“ Britons were reduced to ashes : the priests
“ were slaughtered on the alters by those
“ idolatrous ravagers : the bishops and nobi-
“ lity shared the fate of the vulgar : the
“ people flying to the mountains and deserts,
“ were intercepted and butchered on heaps,
“ and some were glad to accept of life and
“ slavery.” *Hume.*

CHAP. founded at various periods of time
2. afterwards.

MERCIA.

582

THE Kingdom of Mercia was the most considerable of them all, and was one of the last that were founded. *q* It contained the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Warwick, Lincoln, Rutland, Northampton, Huntingdon, Bedford, Buckingham, Cheshire, Oxford, Stafford, Nottingham, Leicester, part of Hertfordshire, and Shropshire,

q About ten years before this happened, some harassed Britons had fortified themselves in a place called Siezanburg, where those miserable people made a stout resistance against their oppressing enemies, the Saxons, under the command of a Cuthwulfus. But at length being overcome by numbers, the place was taken, and the unhappy Britons shared the common fate of those times. Camden supposes this place to be Loughborough, a large market-town in Leicestershire.

For the Memoirs of Leicester-shire.



Arms of the Mercian Kings.



Shropshire. *r* The Mercians were distinguished by Southern and Northern; and the inhabitants of the province of Leicester were called Mediterranean or Middle Angles. *f* CHAP. 2

CRIDA, the founder of this kingdom, reigned ten years: at whose death it was seized by

ETHELBERT, king of Kent; who afterwards restored it to

WIBBA, the son of Crida, who enjoyed it upon a very precarious situation about nineteen years. 615

TOWARDS the beginning of this reign, Ethelfrid, king of Northumberland, who was a bitter enemy to christianity, discovering its prevalence

VOL. I.

L

in

r Speed.

f Archbishop Usher.

MEMOIRS, &c.

CHAP. in his dominions, endeavoured to effect
2. its total overthrow by slaughter.
— — *He led his army to Leicester, and there slew so many Britons (say the Saxon Ann.) as could not be numbered.*^s

CEARLUS succeeded Wibba, who reigned nine years.

LEICESTER, a KINGDOM.

PENDA, the son of Wibba, who had been set aside, began to enjoy the sovereignty at the age of fifty. He was a most turbulent Prince, whose restless disposition made him perpetually at war with the neighbouring kingdoms. He caused his eldest son Peada
653 to

^s This king also gave orders for the massacre of the religious at Bangor, in Flintshire. He was prompted to these barbarities, it is believed, by an emissary from Rome, because the Britons would not subject themselves to that church,

to be crowned King of Leicester; and CHAP.
 then sent him into Northumberland to 2.
 espouse the daughter of King Oswy,
 where he embraced christianity.

As there was, I believe, never any other King of Leicester, than this most excellent Prince. It is with pleasure I present the reader with the following, from Bede, respecting his conversion to Christianity, and the propagating it in these parts.

“ THE Mercians or those of middle England, received the Faith and Sacraments of Truth under Prince *Peada*, son of *Penda*. This excellent youth, most worthy to bear the name and personage of a king, was preferred by his father to a kingdom of that nation. He came to *Oswy* king of the Northumbrians, to court his daughter *Alfreda*, but could not prevail, unless

CHAP. less he and the nation he governed
 2. would receive the christian faith and baptism. Hearing the gospel preached, the promises of the heavenly kingdom, the hope of resurrection, and a future immortality, he freely declared that he would be made a christian, though he should not succeed in his court to the Virgin."

"He was baptized by Bishop Finan, with all the courtiers and servants that attended upon him, in a royal village called Admorum; † and receiving four presbyters who were fit by their life and doctrine to instruct his nation, he returned with great satisfaction. The presbyters were Cedda, and Adda, Diuma and Betti. Diuma was by nation a Scot, the rest English."

"COMING

† Walsend near Newcastle.

“ COMING into the province with CHAP.
2.
the Prince, they preached and were willingly heard. Every day many of the Nobles and commonalty renounced the filthiness of idolatry, and were washed in the fountain of faith. Nor did king Penda forbid the preaching of the Gospel to the Mercians, but who would might hear. He only hated and despised those, that being instructed in the faith of Christ did not the works which were agreeable to that faith; he said that they must needs be miserable who did not obey that God in whom they believed.”

THESE things were transacted two years before the death of Penda, who being slain, and the most christian king Oswy receiving the kingdom; Diuma, one of the four priests, was made Bi-

shop

CHAP. shop of the *Mediterranean English* and
 2. the Mercians. There were so few
 priests, that it was necessary to set one
 Bishop over two nations.

Oswy, continued Peada his son in
 law, to preside over the little kingdom
 of Leiceſter; but he being soon after
 poisoned by his wife, ^u or as another
 ſays by his mother, ^v Oswy ſeized that
 alſo and held them both till he was
 driven thence by Wulfer brother to
 Peada. ^w

WULFHERE ſecond ſon of Penda,
 was a Prince of fine endowments for
 government: he like his father had al-
 moſt

^u Bede.

^v Swapham.

^w Hume, and Collier who ſucceeded him,
 ſay, ſon to Peada, againſt the teſtimony of
 all the elder hiſtorians that I have ſeen.

most continual wars with the neigh- CHAP.
bouring states, in which he often pro- 2.
ved unsuccessful altho' he reduced to
dependance the kingdom of Essex, and
East Anglia. He endeavoured to
leave his crown to his son Cenrid, but
his uncle,

ETHELRED, third son of Penda, 675
supplanted him. Notwithstanding this
Prince was a lover of peace he was of-
ten under the necessity of making war
with his neighbours, which was at-
tended with various success. After he
had reigned about twenty years, his
wife Ostraitha was murdered, and it
is imagined somewhere in Leicester-
shire. ✕ In about ten years after this
he

✕ Saxon Ann.—Some have said that this
murder was done at the instigation of her hus-
band,

CHAP. he resigned his crown to Cenrid his
2. nephew, and retired into a monastery
where he became Abbot.

FROM Diuna, whom Peada brought
with him from Northumberland, who
was consecrated Bishop of the Medi-
terranean Angles, i. e. the kingdom
of Leiceſter, and alſo of the Mercians
A. D. 671, ſucceeded to govern the
affairs of the church in this kingdom.
Calach, Trumhere, Jaruman, Chad,
Winfrid, Saxulph, but Ethelred find-
ing one Biſhop inſufficient for his
kingdom divided it into four provin-
ces, viz. Worceſter, Litchfield, Lei-
ceſter, and Hereford. A Cuthwin
was made Biſhop of Leiceſter and
three others ſent to preſide over the
other provinces. After Cuthwin's
death, Leiceſter was united to Litch-
field.

BISHOP WILFRID. 97

field. And some time after this they CHAP. 2.
were separated again by the last-men-
tioned monarch, and the province of
Leicester was given to a turbulent
bishop named Wilfrid. 701

BISHOP WILFRID.

THIS arrogant prelate had been
Archbishop of York, but was driven
thence by his highly offended Prince,
Egfrid, the Northumbrian Monarch.

THE cause of the quarrel between
Egfrid and this Ecclesiastic being of
a singular nature, I shall not scruple
to relate the particulars of it.

A strange delicacy in Egfrid's queen,
had prompted her to refuse her husband
the matrimonial rites; the king, who
loved her with a warm affection, un-
willing to obtain by severity what a

C H A P. mistaken zeal had held from him,
2. urged Wilfrid to reason his fanatic
Consort into a pliable disposition : in-
stead of which he rather strengthened
her in the scruples she had fostered in
her mind, insomuch that she pressed
the king to follow her rule of erroneous
chastity. Egfrid, justly incensed at
the treachery of the Bishop, whom he
had honoured with his confidence on
the occasion, was resolved to dispute
the important subject with his wife,
after rebuking Wilfrid. He, in the
tenderest terms, endeavoured to awaken
in her a proper sense of her duty. He
strove with all the efforts of the fondest
lover to win her to his arms ; but she,
mistaking these powerful indications of
conjugal affection for persecution, fled
to Ely, from the tenders of a fond
husband. This conduct made him
endeavour to stifle the remembrance of

her

her by another marriage. And to CHAP.
 punish her spiritual guide he seized ^{2.}
 certain of his revenues, and created
 several Sees in the diocese of York,
 which were maintained from the se-
 questered possessions of Wilfrid. Upon
 this, Wilfrid appeared at the court of
 Egfrid with unparalleled arrogance, and
 demanded of the King and the Arch-
 bishop of Canterbury how they dared,
 like a couple of robbers, take from him
 those estates given by former princes
 to the church. His peremptory de-
 mands were answered by contempt.
 He then sought redress of the Roman
 pontiff Agatho, who was so highly plea-
 sed with an appeal to his power that he
 did not hesitate to grant a decree to
 reinstate Wilfrid, upon pain of de-
 nouncing his anathemas against all that
 should oppose him in his spiritual
 claims.

EGFRID 2

CHAP. EGFRID, upon this, publicly asserted
2. his independence of the See of Rome, and cast Wilfrid into prison for having appealed to a foreign power against the decree of his sovereign and liege Lord. When he had been confined near a year, Egfrid was prevailed upon to give him his liberty on condition of being banished the Northumberland dominions. Upon his enlargement he sought succour in the kingdom of Mercia without relief. He then sought protection among the West Saxons as ineffectual. At last this fugitive prelate was received by the South-Saxons.

ON the death of Egfrid his successor Alfrid was persuaded to reinstate him in the See of York. But the lofty Wilfrid not content with his benefactor's indulgence to him, insisted upon

full

full restitution of all his revenues that had been secularized. This insolent demand so enraged Alfrid that he drove him also from his dominions. Suffer-
 ing this deserved chastizement he be-
 came an humble suppliant to Ethelred
 King of the Mercians, who gave him
 the See of Leiceſter as was above re-
 lated. While he enjoyed this See he
 was ſummoned to a Council of Bi-
 ſhops at Oeneſtresfield, where he was
 charged with crimes importing no leſs
 than degradation, which he ſuffered.
 --The mind, which is embellished with
 the riches of humility, will here reflect
 what a glorious bleſſing he enjoys,
 when compared with him whoſe im-
 petuoſity and pride carries him along
 the agitated torrent of difficulty and
 diſtreſs; ſuch that never failed to at-
 tend this imperious man, till old age,
 nay even till death had ſeized his feeble
 limbs,

CHAP.

2.

CHAP. 2. limbs, and despotic soul, for we find him at the cold age of seventy journeying towards Rome to take revenge of that Council which had so justly degraded him.—Upon the resignation of Ethelred

CENRED governed four years ; and resigned his crown into the hands of his uncle

CEOLRED, who was taken off by poison. To him succeeded

ETHELBALD, who was engaged in several wars with his neighbours, but lost his life in a rebellion headed by one Beorned, whom the rebels chose for their king. But the nobles soon drove him from his usurped power, and set

OFFA, nephew to the murdered king, upon the throne. He slew the king of Kent, totally subdued a people called Hastings, made tributary another

another of the Kentish kings, defeated a king of the West-Saxons, made the famous rampart or ditch called Offa's-dyke, y and repulsed the Danish invaders ; but the murder of Ethelbert, king of the East-Angles, whom he inveigled into his power, cast a shade of ignominy over the glories of his reign, z which continued near forty years. He was succeeded by his son

EGFRID

y This rampart extended from Basingwerke, in Flintshire, to the south sea near Bristol ; it was made to protect his country from the Welsh, who had invaded his territories.

z Young Ethelbert went to Offa's Court, designing to marry his daughter, and was received there with the greatest civility ; but the prospect of becoming master of Ethelbert's kingdom, by his death made him break the most sacred law of friendship, by an horrid murder.

CHAP. 2. EGFRID, who governed but a few months. Then

319 KENULPH possessed the regal dignity. He sullied his reign by an act of cruelty: for after vanquishing Egbert king of Kent, he ordered the eyes of the royal captive to be plucked out, and then triumphed over his barbarity by leading him in chains, into Mercia, his miserable prisoner. He was slain in an insurrection.

KENELM, his infant son, succeeded him, who was murdered by his unnatural sister Quendrade, for the purpose of supplanting him; but her ambitious views proved ineffectual:—Her uncle

CEOLWULF seized the throne. He was also soon driven thence by a nobleman named

BEORNULF.

BEORNULF. This usurper reigned CHAP.
 but a short time for after being van- 2.
 quished in battle his subjects slew him.
 His successor

LUDICAN, suffered the same fate.

WIGLAFF then mounted this unsta-
 ble throne, who was unable to with-
 stand the conquering Egbert who u-
 nited the whole of the seven kingdoms.

E A R L S O F L E I C E S T E R.

EARL is a degree of honour which
 originated in the Saxon's time. In their
 government Earldoms of Counties were
 not only dignities of honour but Magi-
 strates; they had also the superinten-
 dency of the County they were Earls
 of. They had deputies called Vice-
 comes, which office is now managed
 by the Sheriffs.—Leicester has been so

CHAP. long dignified by this title that it stands
 2. in competition with any City or Town
 in England. *a*

IN the reign of Ethelbald a Leofric was honoured with the title of Earl of Leicester, and as that title was then hereditary we find the following in a direct line before the Norman conquest. Algarus, Leofric II, Algarus II, Leofftan, Leofric III, Algarus III, who had issue Edwin Earl of Leicester, but he lost all his honours and estates

for

a "Of the old Earldom of Leicester, I may, I hope, make use of the following Eulogium: That for Antiquity, Territories, Dominions, Castles, Monastries, Colleges, Forests, Chases, Parks, Manors, Tenacies, Demesnes, Services, Lands, great and extensive power, and agreeable Seats it was in no respect inferior to the principal Earldom in the Land." Burton.

for being a strenuous opposer of the CHAP.
Norman Conqueror.^{2.}

LEICESTER, during the Saxon's government, was not only a Bishop's See but also at times the residence of Royalty. It was then a flourishing and extensive City, but its opulence was much diminished in succeeding times: Royalty being removed, and extirpating wars taking place.

BESIDES the Bishops of Leicester mentioned p. 96, there were, till the subduing the seven kingdoms, Tota or Torthelm A. D. 737, Edbrist 764, Werenbert —, Unwona 803, Ret-tum 813. ^b

THE Christian Church, at these early

^b Cart from Tindal. — See the conclusion of the next Chapter.

CHAP. ly times of the promulgation of its religion, was grossly edicted to frivolous controversies as at present, wrangling about the forms and operations of a religion whose amiable simplicity produceth, to its true votaries, Peace and Love. Wilfrid, who endeavoured, with some success, to subject this Country to the papish church, made great and erroneous impressions upon the minds of the vulgar. He succeeded particularly, in this servile business of the Pope's, by persuading men, that St. Peter, who was intrusted with the keys of heaven, would refuse admittance to those who shewed not respect to his successor. And altho' Jesus but gently rebuked, and pitying wept over the inadvertencies of human nature, yet these, pretending dispensators of his will, spared not their execrable curses, to eternally anathematize their brethren
who

who varied from them in the mode of **CHAP.**
adoring, and supplicating, the KING^{2.}
of Heaven and Earth.—hocking in-
justice!—Horrid imprecations! But
why exclaim against these severe judge-
ments? We hear, alas! in our days,
the uncharitable awards of the
self-created deputies of the Prince of
PEACE, consigning, without the least
emotion of pity, the bulk of mankind
to a dismal unfathomable gulph of end-
less torments.

(As there seems an extraordinary e-
mulation in the performance of Church
music in this County, it may be ac-
ceptable to some readers to know that
it was first used in England in the
Saxon's time, it being introduced by
Bishop Acca.)

CHAP.

3.

CHAP. III.

*Egbert, &c. — Alfred, &c. — Ethel-
freda's munificence to Leiceſter. —
Athelſtan, &c. — Eldrid's Deed. —
Earl of Leiceſter. — Biſhops of Lei-
ceſter. — Lords of Leiceſter.*

E G B E R T,

BEGAN to reign over the Weſt Saxons, A. D. 800. He, like others of the princes of the ſeven kingdoms, formed the grand deſign of ſubjecting the whole under his rule; which he accompliſhed in about twenty-eight years. The tottering fabrics of thoſe unſtable kingdoms, which were raiſed at the expence of torrents of human blood, now gave way to the bold efforts of a dauntleſs Prince.

EGBERT

EGBERT was crowned by the gene-
ral title of king of England, and seem-
ed firmly established by his military
achievements. The splendor of his
victories, and the wisdom of his ad-
ministration, promised the most unsha-
ken security to his subjects; but alas!
they soon felt the reverse of peace and
safety. The Danes, who before had
pillaged some of the sea-coast towns
of

CHAP.

3.

c " The Danes swarmed from out of Scan-
" za, that is, Scandia, like bees out of a
" hive, in manifold diversity and barbarous
" manner after they had in heat, lascivious
" lust and wantonness engendered an innu-
" merable offspring. Who, after they were
" grown to ripeness of years, falling to
" hot contention about goods and land, with
" their fathers and grandfathers, and often-
" times among themselves. When they once
" overflowed, and grew so populous, that
" they could have no room sufficient to inha-
" bit in the place wherein they presently
" dwelt; and having gathered together by
" lot

CHAP. of Britain, now made a more formidable
 3. appearance. They landed from thirty-five ships, pillaged the country of Dorset and retired to their vessels; but about two years after Egbert gained a signal victory over these potent
 338 invaders. But the death of this prince, who seemed alone able to stop the ravages of those people, removed that competent security which sometime blest his subjects.

ETHELWOLF succeeded his father Egbert, who was so engaged between love and religion, that the Danes shook that fabric which his father had erected by the most arduous industry. And notwithstanding they
 ravaged

“ lot a multitude of youths and springals
 “ after a most ancient custom, were thrust
 “ out into foreign realms, to conquer to
 “ themselves, lands by dint of sword, where-
 “ in they might live.” *Camden from Dug.*

ravaged a great part of his dominions, he continued to lead a life of indolence till his death : suffering his sons to take part of the government with him. CHAP.
3.

ETHELBALD and Ethelbert received, at the death of their father Ethelwolf, each, a division of England. The former *d* lived but a short time, and bequeathed the possession to his brother. The latter died about six years after. Then

ETHELRED their brother possessed the throne, who from his coronation to his death, met with an uninterrupted scene of trouble. The Pagan Danes advanced into the most interior part of his kingdom, sparing neither age nor

VOL. I.

O

sex

d He committed the incestuous act of marrying his father's widow. *Speed.*

CHAP. *sex.* *e* He died of a wound received
 3. from these cruel tormentors, and left
 his kingdom to

ALFRED the Great. This renowned
 prince took possession of a throne sur-
 rounded with amazing difficulties ;
 but his towering genius disdainful of
 inglorious ease, and above the vicissi-
 tudes of adverse fortune, sought every
 means, tho' attended with the most
 imminent

e The Abbess of Coldingham Nunnery, to
 prevent herself, and the nuns under her charge,
 from exciting the lust of these savage Danes,
 when they were about to approach that place,
 persuaded them to cut off their noses and upper
 lips. She first set the example, in which she
 was boldly followed by all the sisterhood pre-
 sent. The leaders of the Danes going thither
 the next day, and finding themselves disap-
 pointed of the pleasures they expected in the
 arms of those maidens, became furious, and
 instantly ordered the monastery to be set on fire,
 which was soon effected, and all these heroic
 females perished in the flames.

iminent danger, to promote the happiness of his people. CHAP. 3.

Altho' his army was once totally routed by the Danes, and he for safety, was obliged to take shelter in the humble cot of a peasant, *f* yet the issue of his actions brought him such glory that

f The poor woman of the house was perfectly ignorant of her royal guest, and set the king, one day, to take care of her cakes that were baking before the fire; his thoughts being taken up about matters of moment, forgot the cakes, and suffered them to burn: which the good woman perceiving, on her return home, upbraided him with telling him that he was always ready to eat her cakes, though he was so negligent in baking them. On this the prince begged pardon and promised to take care for the future.

This prince another time to learn the strength of his enemies, entered the danish camp, in the disguise of an harper, and gave them infinite pleasure by his music and facetious humours.

CHAP. that time will scarcely annihilate.

3.

This truly excellent prince died in the fifty-second year of his age.

THIS king was so merciful to the Danish captives he took in his wars, that he gave them large tracts of land in the north of England, where their frequent ravages had depopulated the country. Some parties of them settled at Lincoln, Stamford, Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester.—From this reign we may date the division of England into shires, and the counties into hundreds. *g* What division of hundreds Leicestershire was in at this time, seems not clear. (See

the

g *Spelman* says that Alfred only fixed the numbers and limits of the counties, and that they were divided before his time. The same Author ascribes to Alfred the institution of Sheriffs, Under-sheriffs, and original writs.

the article at the end of Edw. the 1st. CHAP. 1
reign.) 3.

EDWARD, son of Alfred, succeeded 909
his father. He was little inferior to
him in military skill. Happy was it
for his subjects that he was equal to
the difficulties he had to surmount.
The Danes, who had now large pos-
sessions in England, gave occasion for
the exercise of the utmost stretch of his
abilities. His success against them
has made his name glorious to poste-
rity. The latter part of his reign he
lived enjoying the fruits of his labour,
and governing his people equitably.

IN the year 910 or 911, the Danes
of Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Lin-
coln and Stamford, joined by their
countrymen from the North, ravaged
the adjacent country. Edward was
so enraged at the disturbers of his peace
that

CHAP. 3. that he drove them out of those parts, and in their flight slew amazing numbers of them.

ETHELFREDA.

IN this business Edward was seconded by his sister Ethelfreda's husband, Etheired (or as some call her Elfleda others Edelfleda,) who was Earl of Mercia; and held that kingdom much in the same manner as the German princes hold their possessions. His title was *Sebregulus Merciorum*. He died soon after and Ethelfreda took upon her the government of Mercia. This princess, it is said, disliking the severe pangs of child-bearing, which she had experienced in the extreme, formed a resolution never to be in the like condition any more. She, being able to brave every temptation that might allure, and capable of enduring the

the toils of war ; strictly conformed to her resolution, and devoted herself to arms : in the exercise of which she gave singular proofs of her courage and constancy in all her brothers wars. Her martial abilities procured her the admiration of all. Although she was the daughter of the great Alfred, yet she was ennobled more for an accomplished mind, than from the transcendent honours of an illustrious parent. She relieved, in many places, the distresses of mankind, where the horrors of war had made miserable. The city of Leicester, she beheld with the tenderest compassion which had been honoured by a royal Residence ; but whose beauty and strength had fallen to decay by the annihilating power of war.—Its miserable inhabitants she succoured. Its wasted dwellings she bid to rise from their ruinous heaps,

in

CHAP.

3.

CHAP. in pleasing order. Propagation under
 3. her kind influence poured forth her multiplying increase to supply the devastations of a vindictive foe. She repaired its fortifications, and built a wall that encompassed the City ^b of such amazing strength, that an ancient historian, Matthew Paris, called it indissoluble. Thus she lived an honour to her elevated birth; and may her name adorn the page of history to the remotest time, inspiring princes with her exalted sentiments of munificence.

THE foundation of this wall is discoverable in many places, at this day; and such is the tenacity of the mortar that, whenever the inhabitants of Leicester have occasion to remove any
 part

† A. D. 914 Camden.

part of the foundation, the stones of CHAP.
which it was built are found almost in- 3.
separable.

ATHELSTAN,

Natural son of Edward, succeeded his father. He put to death Edwin, his brother, whom he, undeservedly, tried for being accessory in a rebellion. The virtuous young Edwin was sentenced to be put on board a leaky vessel, with two attendants, and in that condition committed to the mercy of the waves. The unfortunate youth unable to support himself, under the aggregate distress of the weather, the want of food, and the momentary prospect of death, threw himself into the sea and perished. Athelstan in other respects was a prince qualified to check the evil tendency of the times, produced by the unstable Danes, who had spread themselves almost all over

CHA P. his dominions. ; He left his throne to

3.

941

EDMUND *his brother.*

He was no sooner crowned than he marched towards the north to subdue the Danes in those parts ; and as their brethren, in Leiceſter, Stafford, Derby and Nottingham, were preparing to join them he ſeiz'd thoſe places, and compelled the inhabitants he found there to receive baptiſm. One day as Edmund was at dinner he was provoked by the inſolence of a Leoff, a notorious robber, to riſe from table and throw him upon the ground. The villain inſtantly drew forth a dagger and plunged it into the king's breaſt, who died inſtantly. The aſtoniſhed company immediately cut the regicide to pieces. The great pains this young prince took to improve the civil

i In this reign flouriſhed the famous Guy Earl of Warwick.

civil policy of his kingdom, are illustrious instances of his abilities to govern. CHAP. 3.

As the Danish armies had often over run Mercia, and their people had, by this time, been long occupiers in these parts, it may not be improper here, to give Mr. Cart's words respecting a hill, in this County, which he takes to have been the burial place of a Danish king.

“ About four miles from hence,
 “ (meaning Leicester) there is an un-
 “ common Tumulus, which I take to
 “ be the monument of a Danish king.
 “ It is about a lands length on this
 “ side Ratcliff in the Wreke, between *Danish*
 “ the top road and the river. And *monument.*
 “ whereas all other Tumuli which I
 “ have seen are of a round form, this
 “ is long, and agrees with the ac-
 “ count which Oleius Wormius gives
 “ us

CHAP. " us of the sepulchres of the most an-
 3. " cient Danish kings. j

ELDRED was next placed upon the throne of his brother Edmund. He governed not unworthy a descendant of the great Alfred.

Mr. Burton has given us a copy of *Purport of a deed.* a deed dated A. D. 951, in which it appears that the town of Norton, near Twicrofs in this County, commonly called Hogs-Norton, was given by this king to one Elfeth, who appears to have been a faithful and beloved minister of Eldred's.

EDWY k next ascended the throne. He was young and extremely beautiful, his ungovernable passion for the fair
 sex

j It was the rude custom of those pagans, at the burial of their Leaders and Kings, to raise over their graves a large mount of earth, which served the purpose of a sepulchre.

k Son of Edmund.

sex was a principal trait in his cha-CHARACTER. He died an excommunicated 3.
member of the church.

EDGAR, brother to Edwy, took possession of the crown. In the earliest part of his life he had given powerful indications of a shining genius. But the most amiable actions of his reign are sullied by several unlawful amours : in fact his reign was a compound of virtues and vices. His son

EDWARD, the Martyr, succeeded him. This prince's reign was short : the only thing worth remarking is his death. He obtained the name of martyr 970.

Elfrida, his step mother, raised several objection to Edward's title to the Crown, she having a son, about the age of seven years, for whom she endeavoured to obtain it, which she effected in the following manner. The murder of this young Prince was the only mean she could suggest for that purpose. The amiable

CHAP. martyr from his innocent life and tragical end.

ETHELRED's reign, so cruelly obtained, was an almost continued series of

able, the unsuspecting Edward was led, one day, when hunting, near the dwelling of this cruel Mother;—a tender affection for the wife of his father, and his brother, prompted him to pay them a tribute which his unsuspecting heart had dictated. Elfrida being told the king was at the gate, ran to receive him, and pressed him earnestly to go in and refresh himself, but as the king was unattended he requested only a glass of wine to drink on horseback. The wine was soon brought him, and whilst he was drinking it, at her instigation, a ruffian plunged a dagger into his back. The unfortunate prince finding himself wounded, put spurs to his horse, but fainting, with the loss of blood, he dropped from the saddle, and his foot sticking in the stirrup, he was dragged in that manner by his horse till he expired. His body was found by the traces the blood had left on the ground, and was buried at Warham.

of troubles. London and other places CHAP.
 were destroyed by the Danes: in re- 3.
 turn the English by a secret commiffi-
 on slaughtered them in every city.
 The Danes, to revenge the massacre
 of their brethren, landed a powerful
 force, that spread the horrors of car-
 nage and famine wherever they passed.
 Nor did Leiceftershire escape these
 dreaded deeds. It feems that the in-
 habitants of this county, of Staffor-
 dshire and Shropshire had been favour-
 able to the Danes, for which Edmund
 the fon of Ethelred entered these coun-
 ties, and spared not to exercise the
 cruelties of vindictive rage, without
 diftinction of age or fex.

EDMUND, fon and fucceffor of
 Ethelred, was furnamed Ironfides. He
 did not long enjoy the honours of roy-
 alty. In about a month after, Canute,
 the chieftain of the Danes, and he
 had ratified a folemn treaty of peace,
 he was murdered: the regicide think-
 ing

CHAP. ing he had rendered the Danes a singular
 3. lar service, carried the head of Edmund with haste to Canute expecting a great reward. The noble minded Dane, shocked at the black deed, ordered the traitor's head to be immediately struck off, and placed upon the highest gate of the city.

1017 CANUTE succeeded. He was the first Dane that swayed the English sceptre. He was the greatest monarch of his time : being king of England, Denmark, and Norway. *m*

HAROLD

m His extensive power could not fail to produce him the adulation of his subjects. One day some of his sycophantic Attendants broke out into strains of admiration, at his power and grandeur, when he was walking on the sea shore ; and began to compare his greatness to that of the Deity. Upon which he ordered a chair to be set on the beach, at the time the tide was rising ; he sat down in it and with an air of majesty commanded the waves
 not

HAROLD, surnamed Harefoot, son of Canute, was the next king. He reigned but a short time, but long enough to stamp an indelible mark of infamy on his character. He caused his brother Alfred's eyes to be plucked out, to secure his possessions. Then

HARDICANUTE governed.

He caused the body of his brother Harold to be taken from the grave and thrown contemptuously into the Thames. He died at a banquet after a short reign. Next

VOL. I.

Q

EDWARD

not to approach him. But being soon surrounded by the swelling sea, he arose, and turning with an aspect of contempt to his flattering courtiers, remarked "That the power of man was feeble and impotent; and that none but the God of heaven could say to the ocean *Thus far shalt thou go and no farther*, who with his nod could level the most towering piles of human greatness."

CHAP. EDWARD, who for his pious life
 3.
 94^r was called the Confessor, acceded to
 the throne. He was the last of the
 Saxon line, and the first who touched
 for the king's-evil. He was cold to
 the attractive charms of the tender
 sex. An erroneous conception of re-
 ligion made him suffer his wife to con-
 tinue a virgin after being married ma-
 ny years.

EARL of LEICESTER.

ALGARUS III, son of Leofric,
 duke of Mercia, and brother-in-law
 of Harold, afterwards king of Eng-
 land, being intrusted with the go-
 vernment of East-Anglia, was accused
 of treasonable practices in this reign,
 and sentenced to lose all his titles and
 possessions, and to suffer banishment.
 But returning with an army to Eng-
 land, to revenge his loss and degrada-
 tion, was defeated by his brother-in-
 law ;

law ; who instead of punishing him, CHAP. 3.
employed all his interest to procure him not only a pardon, but a restoration of all his honours and possessions, which was granted. This generous behaviour in Harold, inspired Algarus with gratitude ; who was ever after firmly attached to the interest of his benefactor.

HAROLD next assumed the kingly dignity by the consent of the nobility, though two others had each a claim. William duke of Normandy was one of the claimants, who being filled with rage at the exaltation of Harold, prepared a great army to wrest the sceptre from him. He landed his armament in Suffex. Both armies met at Hastings. There the battle was fought which decided the bloody conflict for a crown. The two armies contended with various success from the morning till the evening. The
two.

CHAP. two leaders showed amazing valour:
 3. they fought for a kingdom. Harold
 fell: a random arrow pierced his
 brain. Their leader dead, the English
 flew. The carnage that day was ex-
 tremely great: William lost 15,000,
 and the English a much greater num-
 ber; among the latter were the
 king's two brothers.

BISHOPS of LEICESTER, continued. *

" ALDRED 851, Ceolred 873,
 Halard 886, Renulf 909, Oskytell
 948, Leofrix 954, Ailnoth 960,
 Asewyn 967, Alfielm 994, Eadnoth
 1st 1005, Eadherich 1017, Eadnoth
 2d, 1034, Ulf 1050, Wulfin—after
 whose death the See was 1053, re-
 moved

* See page, 96, and 107 vol. 1

o About this time Mr. Burton says the See
 of Leicester was united to Lincoln.

moved by his successor to Lincoln. CHAP.

Thus far Tindal," says Mr. Cart. 3.

From the above, Leicester seems to have been a Bishop's See from 671 to 1053, &c. excepting what has been related of it prior to Bishop Wilfred, &c. From Diuna, whom king Peada brought from Northumberland, to Wilfred, where eight Bishops, seven of which were Bishops of Mercia and Leicester. From Wilfred to Aldred seven, and from Aldred to Wulfin fourteen, in all, twenty nine Bishops of Leicester.

If this account of the Right Reverend Fathers, the reputed Bishops of this ancient See, agreeth not with the conclusions some may have drawn, I wish not to be charged with the apparent error. The collection was made by one, the reader must observe, who was much more equal to the task, than the author of these sheets, whose
aim

CHAP. aim has been more to entertain, than
 3. to perplex the reader with disquisitions.

LORDS of LEICESTER.

The jurisdiction of Leicester, prior to the conquest, seems to have been divided between the Earl of Leicester and the Bishop of the Diocese. That part which was within the power of the Bishop, I take it, was called *Manordieu*, or the manor of God, adjoining the city; and *Manor de Knighton*, containing the village of that name, and its manor. The former is known by the name of the Bishop's Fee at this time, and remains, I believe, out of the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Leicester. *p*

It

p Some ineffectual attempts have been made, I learn, to subject it to the police of the Corporation of Leicester: in the reign of Edward
 5th

It is very probable that the Bishop's CHA P.
seat was near St. Margaret's church, 3.
as there is a piece of ground there,
called the Bishop's Barn-Close.

The city was under the jurisdiction
of the Earl of Leicester, whose seat
was where the castle now stands;
which had been a Palace of the kings
of Mercia. 7

Before we proceed to the succeeding
reigns, it may be profitable to take a
short review of the times we have been
displaying.

The design of OMNIPOTENCE is
perfectly visible through the strange
vicissitudes

5th. and Queen Elizabeth. And I remember
something similar happened, a little time
back, that terminated as unsuccessfully.

7 See the article Edwin Earl of Leicester
after the next reign.

CHAP. vicissitudes that have happened in every age. Amidst the dark errors of our idolatrous progenitors; and, indeed, in every change in human society, the contemplative mind calls forth instruction; he may oft commiserate at the recital of human woe, but he is taught not to charge the author of his existence with partiality. The ambitious Roman, whose potent arm bade subjection to the world, held out the amiable picture of civilization; arts from him, in those early ages, illumin'd and made noble the rudest minds. The Britons beheld the artificer with astonishment, and soon employed the imitative faculties given them by Nature's GOD. Their advances in temporal learning prepared them to embrace the saving truths of Christ's religion. The debilitated state of Briton, when deserted by the Romans, occasioned the Saxon invasion. These new inhabitants produced excel-

lent

lent la
basis o
Danes
and w
verts t
their
for fl
the m
tern o
the N
streng
this ill
braced
and fi
here.

How
judge
dence
our lin
est evi
of our

lent law-givers : Alfred laid the grand C H A P
basis of our admired constitution. The 3.
Danes, who swarmed here as robbers,
and were truly pagans, became con-
verts to a system directly opposite to
their disposition ; the vindictive arm
for slaughter hung pendant, while
the mind was copying the high Pat-
tern of our religion. And indeed
the Norman conquest particularly
strengthened the cause of God, in
this island ; those people having em-
braced the Christian faith one hundred
and fifty years before their arrival
here.

How insufficient then is Man to
judge of the dispensations of Provi-
dence ! When from what appears, to
our limited understandings, the great-
est evil eventually proves the reverse
of our conceptions.

CHAP.

A

CHAP. IV.

*William. — Edwin, Earl of Leicester.
Leicester.*

WILLIAM I.

COnsternation every where seized the English, on receiving the news of the fatal battle of Hastings; but the political abilities of the conqueror, prevented the ill consequences attendant on displeasure. The people made some ineffectual attempts to prevent the designs of the efficacious Norman Leader taking place. He not only baffled their attempts, but robbed the English nobility, to aggrandize and reward his Norman followers: the inhabitants of those districts that had been the least refractory suffered in the extreme. Altho' William may be ranked amongst the greatest generals any age has produced, yet some
of

of his actions exceeded the common CHAP.
 bounds of conquering tyrants. But 4
 injustice fails to support transitory
 grandeur when death approaches.
 William received a bruise from the
 pommel of his horse's saddle, which
 proved fatal. The review of his former
 conduct embittered the hours of
 his affliction. Struck with remorse,
 he endeavoured to atone for his
 crimes, by making presents to religious
 houses, when he had no use for
 possessions. He died in the sixty- 1087
 third year of his age. *r*

During

r An endeavour to characterize this prince,
 & the succeeding Kings and Queens of England
 subjoined in a short note, at the conclusion of
 each reign, may be acceptable to some of my
 readers.—William had, added to a mind inflexible
 to danger, the skill of the most experienced
 soldier of his time. Luxury and pleasure had
 no charms to allure him from the grand designs
 his genius had formed. But a lust of power and
 avarice were blended with

CHAP. During this reign, when the minds
 3. of men were not easily reconciled to their new government, part of the city and castle of Leicester were destroyed; probably from the following reason.

EDWIN,

Who was Earl of Leicester at the time of the Conquest by the Normans, persuaded the citizens of London to shut their gates against the Conqueror; and afterwards excited them to take up
 arms

with the most pleasing of his requisites.—If religion taught him to revere its precepts, he dared, contrary to its injunctions, to trample upon the rights of his fellow creatures. In short, there was much in his character to admire but more to detest.

f Mon : Angl :—The church of St. Mary was destroyed at the same time.—See Robert Earl of Leicester after H. I. reign.

arms and sally out to surprize the CHAP.
Normans ; but these efforts to save his 4
country proving in the end unsuccessful, he departed the kingdom with
his brother Morcar, leaving his honours and possessions at the disposal of
the Conqueror He returned to England
some time after, and joined some
revolters in the isle of Ely ; but
doubting the insufficiency of those
friends to protect him from the power
of the king, he resolved to go to Scotland,
where, he imagined, he could
be more serviceable to his friends.
But, upon the road thither, he was
murdered by some of his own party.
A. D. 1071.

LEICESTER.

Twelve of the Burgeffes of Leicester
were obliged to attend this king in all
his wars ; and when he went to sea on
any expedition, the city was compelled

CHAP. pelled to send four horses, as far as
 4. London, to carry arms, and other
 necessaries. They likewise paid the
 king yearly thirty pounds by tale, and
 twenty by weight; also twenty-four
 ounces of honey.

CHAP.

• Domestlay Book.

C
 was
 his
 man
 on a
 time
 cons
 claim
 in th
 tions
 fiaftic
 of th
 accid
 ter T
 flag,

*William II.—Grentemeisnil.—Hinkley
Castle and Priory.*

WILLIAM II,

Commonly called Rufus, succeeded his father. His coronation was followed by an attempt to place his brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, upon the throne. A division among the nobility (which in those times produced the most disagreeable consequences) about each of their claims, laid waste many strong places in the kingdom. This king's contentions with, and tyranny over the ecclesiastics make a great part of the history of this reign. William was killed by accident, when hunting, by Sir Walter Tyrrel, who let fly an arrow at a stag, which suddenly started before him.

CHAP. him : when the arrow glancing from
 5. a tree, struck the king in the breast,
 who died instantly. This happened
 when he had reigned thirteen years,
 aged forty. †

HUGH

† Few kings have excelled William in magnanimity of soul. One instance will serve to illustrate this observation. A Nobleman being taken prisoner by him, said, with a spirit superior to fortune, "An accident has made me your captive, but could I recover my liberty, I know what I should do."—"You know what you should do," replied the king; "Begone, I give you leave to do your utmost; and I swear to you, that if you overcome me hereafter, I will ask no return from you for thus having set you free."—As a stranger to indolence, his mind was perpetually in action. Altho' naturally addicted to woman, yet he never sacrificed his business to pleasure. Unawed by religion he suffered, in his court and army, the utmost profligacy of manners. He took not the least pains to conceal his own vices from the public; which rather stamp criminality

When the disaffected noblemen attempted to place Robert, Duke of Normandy on the throne, the strong places that were capable of resistance, in this County, were seized by Hugh Grentemeisnil, Baron of Hinkley, (a market town in Leicestershire,) but when the schemes of the conspirators were blasted, he; with many others of his party, were obliged to fly from their country. This nobleman in the succeeding reign was much in favour with Henry, who made him High Steward, or Seneschal of England. He left issue, two daughters, Parnel married to Robert Blanchemains, Earl of Leicester, ^u and Alice married

VOL. I. S ed

minality with a sanction of applause, than with contempt: but happily his reign was not long, which prevented immorality becoming general.

^u See at the end of Hen. II. reign.

CHAP. 5. P. ed to Roger Bigot, father of Hugh Bigot, first Earl of Norfolk.

HINKLEY CASTLE, &c.

This Hugh built a strong castle near the east end of the church at Hinkley, where he dwelt, adjoining to which was an extensive park. Not a trace of the building is now to be seen : its very ruins have been long reduced to nothingness. Notwithstanding, it is obvious where it stood : the trenches and its ramparts, are very visible.

There was a Priory founded also at Hinkley by one of this family, for Canons Aliens, I am apt to think by Hugh Grentemeisnil, some say, by Robert, Earl of Leicester above-named, & however

& Altho' my opinion is merely conjectural, yet there seems a greater probability that the

HINKLEY-CASTLE, &c. 147

however it was suppressed in the reign CHAP.
of Henry V. 5.

CHAP.

Nobleman who derived his honours from Hinkley, built the Priory ; than he who was only son-in-law to the Baron of that place.

CHAP.

6.

C A A P. VI.

*Henry I. --- Hincote. --- Bellement,
Earl of Leicester. --- St. Mary's,
Leicester. --- Bolles. --- Burton-
Lazars.*

H E N R Y I.

BEING early apprized of his brother's misfortune, took advantage of his brother Robert's absence, and laid claim to the crown. Robert landed an army at Portsmouth to obtain, by force, the crown of England, but yielded his pretensions to it, on securing a pension from Henry. Henry, afterwards, engaged in a war against his brother in Normandy, in which he proved successful; but his felicity was suddenly destroyed by the loss of a beloved son. *vv* Henry did not

1120

vv Henry returning from his wars, set sail
for

not enjoy the state of royalty with CHAP. 6.
much satisfaction to himself after this.

It is generally supposed that he died of a surfeit, occasioned by eating of a fish called lampreys in the sixty-seventh year of his age. x

HUNCOTE.

for England, from Baifleur, and was soon carried by a fair wind out of sight. His son, named William, with the flower of the English nobility, put out in the night from the same place; but the master and sailors of the ship being drunk, she struck on a rock. The prince got into the long-boat, and as the weather was calm might have been saved, but the lamentable cries of his natural sister, the young Countess of Perche, at once moved his compassion: he ordered the boat to be rowed back to the ship to save her, but so many leaped into it, that it immediately sunk, and every soul perished. One only was saved out of the ship's crew. The affectionate father, at hearing the dreadful news, whose character is distinguished by firmness, fainted, and was some time before he could be recovered. The disposition of this youth was truly amiable.

x Henry was one of the most accomplished princes.

In the beginning of December 1124 Henry kept his court there. y Altho' that village is now an inconsiderable place, without either church or chapel, yet there cannot be a doubt but it was then a town, that contained some notable buildings, if not of great extent. z

ROBERT

princes that have worn the crown of England; he had the glory of advancing the state to a noble eminence. He took particular care that the administration of justice, to all orders of his people, should be strict and impartial. His superior judgment must have given him respect in a private station. His bravery has never been disputed. But these glorious requisites are in some degree veiled by his passion for unlawful commerce with the females: he had seven illegitimate children.

y Saxon An.

z It parishes to Narborough, it had once a Chapel but is gone to decay.

EARL of LEICESTER. 151

ROBERT De BELLAMONT. CHAP. 6.

A Norman Lord, was created Earl of Leicester A. D. 1102, He was a distant relation of the Conqueror, and attended his fortune at the Conquest. He was the first Earl of Leicester since the murder of Edwin. Hugh, Baron of Hinkley, enjoyed the estates of that Earl, and after him Ivo his son. But Ivo, taking up arms in favour of Robert Cutthose, fell under the displeasure of King Henry : whereupon he undertook a voyage to Jerusalem, prior to which he mortgaged his possessions to Robert de Bellamont, who, by the favour of the king, obtained the Earldom.

The Earl expended considerable sums of money in repairing that part of Leicester which had been destroyed at the Conquests : the Castle he made
tenable

CHAP. 6. tenable, and St. Mary's juxta *Castra* he rebuilt, in it he placed twelve secular Canons, and a Dean; to whom he appropriated, besides other possessions, all the churches in Leicester, St. Margaret's excepted, which was a prebend of Lincoln. But his son and successor to the Earldom, Robert Bossu, who was the founder of the abbey, gave all those large revenues to the abbey, continuing in St. Mary de Castro, eight Canons, one of which was a Dean; these he endowed with all the oblations, &c. *a*

ROBERT

a There is now in the vestry of that Church a kind of press, called an Ark, from the word arca, a chest, which contains seven cranes for the purpose of hanging the Vestments of these Canons upon; there is the socket for the eighth which is lost.

The following account of this Church, I doubt not, will be acceptable to my readers. "St. Mary's de Castro was Parochial at the same time that it was Collegiate. The south side of it was built long after the main fabric,

(as

EARL of LEICESTER. 153

ROBERT DE BELLEMONT, says CHAP.
VOL. I. T Huntingdon 6.

(as it is said) by John of Gaunt, and it is supposed to be as large or broad as any side isle in England: being thirty three feet broad within the walls. To the west end of the north side of the Church joins the house belonging to the porter of the Castle, which has a lodging chamber within the walls of the church, which yet is said not to be in the parish. There belonged to this Church a Chapel dedicated to St Ann, which I take to be the Room under the Vestry, where there is the remainder of an altar."

"In this church was founded the gild of the Holy Trinity, the feast belonging to it was held on Trinity Sunday yearly, I have seen a book of the accounts of the Warden, and Stewards of it from 1508 to 1519, by which it appears that it had use to be made at the common charge of the members of it; but in 1511 the dinner was made at the sole expence of the Warden and Stewards, and so it was likewise for several years following. From this church was used to be a solemn procession

CHAP. P. Huntingdon, was a man of great
6. learning,

procession every Whitsun-mondav to St. Margaret's church, in which the image of the Virgin Mary was carried under a canopy, borne by four persons, with a minstrel, harp, and other music before her; and twelve persons representing the twelve Apostles, each of which had the name of the Apostle whom he represented wrote in parchment, fixed in his bonnet; and fourteen persons bearing banners with the virgins of the parish attending. When they came to St. Margaret's church among other oblations there were two pair of gloves, whereof one is said to be for God, and the other for St. Thomas of India." *Car.*—Near the middle of the outer wall of the broad isle of this church, is a place known by the name of "Little-ease," the casams or loop holes of which looked into the church-yard; it is supposed to have been for the punishment of people who were disorderly in service time, where they had no room to turn or move themselves when shut up in it. The chancel, which belongs to the Corporation of Leicester, appears a much old-

learning, eloquent, subtle, prudent, CHAP.
and witty : having lived in the best 6.
quality, and borne the greatest honours.
But at last seeing his wife enticed from
his arms by another Earl, he became
troubled in mind, in old age, fell into
a deep melancholy, and became a
monk in the abby of Preaux, where
he died, A. D. 1118.

GEORGE BOLLES,

Born at Newbold, was chosen Lord
Mayor of London in 1117.

BURTON

er building than the rest of the church ; and I
am apt to think descended to that Body with
the government of the Town, from the great
Earls of Leicester. There is hardly any part
of this church an uniform building : it perfect-
ly indicates the traces of repeated desolation,
and reparation, which at different periods it
underwent.

CHAP.

6. BURTON LAZERS.

A village in Leicestershire, so called from a large hospital built in that place by Lord Mowbray, some time in this reign. The institution was for the cleansing leprous people; a disease supposed to be infectious, which broke through the skin into violent itching sores. This house was subject to another in Jerusalem, as the others of the same kind in England were subject to this; as appears by a deed dated the 24th. of Henry VII. "To Thomas Norton, Knight, master of the hospital of Burton-Lazers of Jerusalem, in England, and the brethren of the same place, keepers of the hospital of St Giles's without the bars of the Old Temple, London." This house, it is said, was exceeding rich.

At

-A D. 1553 there remained in charge^{CHAP.}
 5l. in annuities, and the following
 pensions, (viz.) To Robert Cocke
 Clerk, 4l. John Frankyffe, 4l. Wil-
 liam Prowdlove, 3l. And Thomas
 Awnfell, 2l. *b*

CHAP.

b Willis.---*Speed* says that this house was
 erected by a general contribution throughout
 the land, and that its income was 265l. 10s.
 per annum.

CHAP. I

7.

CHAP. VII.

*Stephen—Robert de Bellamont, Earl
of Leicester.*

STEPHEN,

NEXT ascended the throne : He was grandson of William the first. Early in his reign the Scots committed dreadful ravages in England : and as he had obtained the crown contrary to the intentions of the last monarch, he met with much difficulty in wearing it. The princess Matilda, daughter of the late king, raised an army and contended her right with him ; she took him prisoner, and, unbecoming her birth, loaded the royal captive, like a common malefactor, with chains : but by the heroism

roism of his own queen he was soon CHAP.
 after set at liberty. He reigned the 7.
 latter part of his time with little power,
 bearing only the empty name of a king. He died in the fiftieth year
 of his age. c

ROBERT BELLAMONT •

Earl of Leiceſter, ſurnamed Boſſu,
 A. D. 1143, Founded and richly
 endowed, t'at ſumptuous monaſtry,
 St. Mary de pratis, (ſays the hiſtori-
 an Knighton) with great poſſeſſions;
 and himſelf, in the ſucceeding reign,
 by the conſent of Amicia his wife,
 became

c Stephen had few of thoſe requiſites neceſ-
 ſary for government: His valour was the moſt
 ſhining part of his character. He purchaſed,
 after a long civil war, a diſhonourable peace;
 in which he excluded his ſon from the ſucceſ-
 ſion of the crown.

CHA P. became a canon regular in the same,
7. and fifteen years served God there in
that regular habit, and died in the
Lord a canon, A. D. 1167. He took
upon him this habit by way of penance
as a punishment for his ingratitude to
Henry I. who early in his reign had
bestowed upon him certain honours,
against whom he afterwards rebelled,^d

CHAP.

^d See Hen. VII reign for the history of
the abbey,

CHAP. VIII.

Henry II. — Bellomont, Earl of Leicester. — Leicester. — Folbit. — Burdet.

HENRY II.

ON the death of Stephen, Henry, son of Matilda, possessed the crown of England. He seemed determined to fix his throne upon the able pillars of the constitution of his country.—Archbishop Becket, a turbulent ecclesiastic, whom the king had raised to that eminence, gave him much trouble. Henry wished to obtain his compliance to certain laws, which Becket thought repugnant to his high office, both being inflexible; the dispute ended in the murder of the prelate, at the altar of the cathedral church at Canterbury, by some ruf-

VOL. I.

U

fians

CHAP. 8. fians supposed to be hired for that purpose. For which Henry walked barefoot three miles by way of penance, and suffered himself to be scourged at Becket's tomb. A quarrel afterwards with his children, it is believed, broke his heart. e

1180

ROBERT de BELLOMONT.

Surnamed Blanchemains, succeeded his father, the last Earl of Leicester, in titles and estate. Henry chose him among other honourable personages, one of his council ; he was also chief justiciary of the realm. In the dispute

e Lord Lyttleton tells us, that none in that age excelled him in politeness, he had a wonderful memory, and a great flow of natural eloquence. In speaking of this king's mistress, Fair Rosamond, this elegant writer observes, " that Henry was indeed too frequently a lover, but always a king."

pute between Becket and the king, he CHAP.
 was once upon his knees, with other 8.
 honourable personages, supplicating
 the former, with prayers and tears,
 to comply with the king's request.
 He afterwards raised an army in vin-
 dication of young Henry against his
 father, and was beaten in a bloody
 battle fought so near Leicester, that
 the victorious army immediately en-
 tered that town by force, and seized
 his strong holds there. The king
 willing to bring an undutiful son
 obedience without more blood sh-
 ding, requested that some of the
 friends of his son would meet him,
 to settle this unnatural dispute The
 Earl of Leicester was appointed for
 that purpose, by young Henry. At
 this meeting the Earl's warm temper
 made him forget the duty he owed his
 sovereign : he rashly clapped his hand
 upon his sword, purposing as it was
 thought

CHAP.

8.

thought to have struck the king, had he not been prevented by the company ; consequently this conference was by no means the cause of a happy union. This Earl, who had married a lady not less imperious than himself, was soon after taken prisoner with his wife, in a battle fought with the royalists, and sent into Normandy.

LEICESTER,

For the rashness of this Earl, was oppressed with unrelenting misery : he had made it, during the unnatural rebellion, in this reign, the grand resort of the disaffected nobles, and their rebellious followers. *f* But the victorious

f One Anketill Malory, Constable of Leicester, suddenly surprized some of the king's friends at Northampton, slew part of the Inhabitants, and brought about two hundred of the king's forces prisoners to Leicester.

victorious Richard Lucy, lord chief justice of England, who besieged and took it, let loose upon it his vindictive power in the extreme. The large castle was the first object of his fury : which he soon made impotent. The strong extensive walls which inclosed the city, was next erased, by undermining their foundations. Nor did he spare the dwellings of the miserable inhabitants who stood affrightened, pleading for mercy and liberty to depart, surrounded by the horrors of desolation. From some he enacted large fines for leave to flee from their place of nativity, then unable to sustain them. Numbers of them took sanctuary at St. Albans and St. Edmundbury. Others were not suffered to depart ; but were to remain, and receive the last dread shock of his unmerciful power, which left that noble city a heap

C H A P. heap of ruins and almost unpeopled. g
8.

*Grooby
Castle.*

In the year 1176, the strong castle of Grooby was destroyed by the order of Henry, along with some others in the kingdom, to weaken the power of the nobles. *b* And in the year 1179, Robert, Earl of Leicester was restored to all his possessions, excepting two castles,

g Matthew Paris says, "that the Wall which seemed indissoluble was thrown down to the very foundations, which fell in great pieces; where they remained in his time, in the shape of rocks for bigness and solidity." Some authors have asserted that Leicester before these troubles contained thirty two parish churches, but they are destitute of that credit which ought to stamp the assertion with authenticity."

b The Castle of Grooby I take to have been then in the hands of Baron Ferrers, who had taken a very active part in the dispute between Henry and his son.

castles, one of which was Mountfor-
 rel in this county. He lived to go
 with Richard to the wars in the Holy-
 Land, in which expedition he died,
 A. D. 1190.

GILBERT FOLOIT.

Is a reputed Abböt of Leiceſter
 monaſtry, and flouriſhed in this reign.
 He was made biſhop of Hereford,
 A. D. 1149, and biſhop of London,
 1161. He was much famed for his
 learning and fidelity to the king; par-
 ticularly againſt the ſeditious Becket.
 He is alſo remarked for his bold an-
 ſwer to an unknown voice, heard by
 him

I take him to have been the third Abböt
 from its foundation, if he were an Abböt of
 that houſe; his name does not appear in the
 registers of Lincoln, nor in the collection of
 the Rev. Mr. Sam. Cart. However he
 certainly belonged to that houſe in ſome
 capacity before his elevation,

CHA P. him, as he lay musing upon his bed
8, one night after he had been in a long conference with the king, concerning Becket, uttered in the following language, "*O Gilberte Foloit dum revolvis tot. & tot. Deus tuus est Ashtaroth,*" which he taking to be the devil, answered, "*Mentiris deamon, Deus meus est, Deus Sabaoth.*" j He wrote an apology for the king against Becket. He wrote also epistles and comments on the Canticles, and died A. D. 1187.

Sir WILLIAM BURDET,

Is famed for becoming a christian warrior towards the latter end of this reign. He was of Newtown Burdet, in this county, where his ancestors had long enjoyed that manor. He expected

j This seems not a story calculated for these times,

pected the kings of England and France CHAP
8.
to have followed him to the Holy-wars,
with a powerful army, for the pur-
pose of assisting Guy de Lusignania,
king of Jerusalem, who was taken
prisoner by Saladine Souldan of E-
gypt. But after having spent some
years in those inefficacious wars, he
returned home. This gentleman di-
ed in the succeeding reign.

CHAP.

9.

CHAP. IX.

Richard I.——Bellomont, Earl of Leicester.

RICHARD I.

ELDEST son of Henry II, succeeded his father. He went in defence of the Christians to the Holy-wars, where he gained the highest military fame : the city of Jerusalem, which had been taken by Saladine the Egyptian, surrendered to him. But after several glorious campaigns there, on his return home was taken prisoner by the Duke of Austria, which cost his subjects a large sum of money to obtain their sovereign's liberty. Upon his return, he found his kingdom in disorder, occasioned by the evil practices

tises of his brother John. Richard lost CH A P.
his life by a wound at a siege, in the 9.
forty second year of his age. & 1199

ROBERT de BELLOMONT.

Surnamed Fitz-Parnel, from his
mother Patronil'a or Parnel, succeed-
ed his father in the Earldom of Leices-
ter. He was a faithful follower of
Richard in all his wars, was taken
prisoner in the holy land, and paid for
his ransom 200 marks. / He forced
Phillip

& His military talents, which he possessed in
a superlative degree, were not the most shin-
ing parts of his character. His understanding
was clear, his penetration uncommon, and on
all occasions he displayed a fund of manly e-
loquence. He obtained the surname of "Cœur
de Lion" or Lion-hearted, from his valour.--In
his reign flourished Robin Hood, and Little
John.

/ The rude Arabians, who had been influ-
enced.

CHAP. Philip of France to raise the siege of
 9. Roan in Normandy. He died in the
 subsequent reign, A. D. 1206, with-
 out issue, and was buried in the monas-
 try of St. Mary. Leicester.

REVIEW.

The grand revolution by William
 the Norman, entirely changed the face
 of

enced by the pretended revelations of Maho-
 met, and animated by an enthusiastic zeal for
 their new faith, left their native deserts to
 repel, by force, the spreading of Christ's re-
 ligion. The city of Jerusalem, which was
 held sacred by the Christians, they took, and
 profaned the holy places; which filled the
 Christian World with the highest indignation.
 But no sooner were the banners of our religion
 displayed to force the infidels from the hal-
 lowed city, then all orders of men readily en-
 gaged in the war. Those who refused were
 branded as the most impious: even the infirm
 and aged contributed to these expeditions as
 the sure road to heaven.

of affairs in England, both in church and state. The Saxon princes by their submissiveness to the Pope, whom they thought infallible, had raised the power of the ecclesiastics to an eminence unknown to later ages; which, to the laity, rather indicated a base submission. But the conquest produced a race of kings, unused and unwilling to acknowledge any earthly power above their own.—Big, with the importance of his victories, the first William disdained subjection, and grasped at arbitrary sway. Steadfast, in his resolutions, he challenged, he contended with a power which, the christian world, had been taught to consider as a dominion next to HEAVEN. Nor could the most vigorous efforts of imperial Rome, to extend its power, shake the same manly perseverance in the second William. Henry the first, also, like his brother, and his

CHAP. his father, struggled manfully against
9. the expanding efforts of the papal church. But in Stephen's reign imbecility was more favourable to its views. But, when we admire the rocky minds of those royal Normans, it would be as imprudent as unjust to suppose that their steady opposition to the Popes arose from those splendid principles of virtue, which are the dictates of pure religion.

Amongst the other occurrences, of the church, which distinguished this period, was that remarkable dispute concerning the Eucharist. On the one part were those who solemnly asserted, *That the bread taken at the Sacrament was the same body of Christ that was born of the Virgin, — And that the wine then taken was the same blood which was shed upon the Cross.* And on the other part were those who as solemnly denied the assertion.

assertion. But this grand dispute, like CHAP. 9.
others of the kind, left men in possession of their own opinions, and terminated rather injuriously to that cause which their heated, luxuriant, imaginations intended to serve.

Those, who are pleased with instruction gathered from serious reflection, will discover the efficacious wisdom of the DEITY, in this brief retrospect, humbling the towering views of man by his own species. There we find one boundless in his projects of uncontrouled power; and here another dictating his self-important conceptions as a rule of faith for others. This is humbled by one equally big with fancied excellence, and that by another equally as ambitious: a fine display of the CREATOR's infinite wisdom.

CHAP. In this reign, four shillings was the
 9. price of an ox, or labouring horse,
 one shilling for an hog, ten-pence for
 a fine fleeced sheep, and six-pence for
 a coarse one.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

E R R A T A.

line 11, page 17, Beltræ r ad Belgæ.
 — 6, — 59, Hossam, — Fossam.
 — 5, — 70, Itinearium — Itinerarium.
 — 11, — 114 imminent, — imminent.



he
fe,
or
or



CHAP. In this reign, four shillings was the
 9. price of an ox, or labouring horse,
 one shilling for an hog, ten-pence for
 a fine fleeced sheep, and six-pence for
 a coarse one.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA.

line 11, page 17, Beltæ r ad Belgæ.
 — 6, — 59, Hossam, — Fossam.
 — 5, — 70, Itinearium — Itinerarium.
 — 11, — 114 imminent, — imminent.



ne
e,
or
or

